METRO / A21
4 new witnesses surface to help probers of hazing death

WORLD / A24
Bin Laden to taunt US anew in video for 9/11 anniversary

WORLD / A23
UK mother to be named suspect in 4-year-old daughter's disappearance

BUSINESS / B1
Forex reserves breached $30-B due to investment inflows, remittances

SAT. SPECIAL / F1
Brad & Angie romancing in Venice

Palace lawyer to Abalos, Mendoza: Come clean

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVISER SERGIO Apostol yesterday called on Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to come clean on the controversy surrounding the award of the $330-million national broadband net-

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, September 9, 2007 | 44 | 10 sections | Vol. 23 | No. 272 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

5 Big Business groups seek Abalos resignation

By Russel W. Domingo

FIVE OFFICIAL BUSINESS GROUPS and think tanks yesterday reiterated their call for Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to resign to try "to discount pocket" in the controversial national broadband network deal.

It's a joint statement, the Makati

Pro-, anti-GMA senators clash over Doble testimony

THE LONE RANGER. Out of it and out in the Senate even as judging "Garci," only retired intelligence operative, Sgt. Vidal Doble (left), shows up. From left, Senators Nene Pimentel, Jinggoy Estrada (partly hidden), Jose Pres Ejercito (Pia Cayetano, Jamby Madrigal, Dick Gordon, Rodolfo Biazon and Alan Peter Cayetano.

By Cliff C. Catsungcod Jr.

THE SENATE INQUIRY REVIVING THE "Hello Garci" controversy turned into the most heated showdown yet between administration and opposition lawmakers since the opening of the 14th Congress.

Administration senators yesterday took turns attacking the credibility of a former military intelligence officer who claimed to have recorded the "Garci" tapes, calling him a "master of double-talk" who had already contradicted them in his past testimonies in the House of Representatives and the Court of Appeals.

Senators Richard Gordon, Juan Ponce Enrile and Johnny Ang Ejercito (Erap) Estrada and Jinggoy Estrada (partly hidden), Jose Pres Ejercito (Pia Cayetano, Jamby Madrigal, Dick Gordon, Rodolfo Biazon and Alan Peter Cayetano.

Doble tags GMA aide

Bishop Soc defends role, names Medy Poblador

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MALACAÑANG OFFICIAL WAS INVITED IN whisking away from a Roman Catholic seminary a military agent who said he took part in the recording of the "Hello Garci" tape. He was reportedly set to reveal its contents until a Catholic bishop asked him to leave the seminary to join his family.

This was the testimony of former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble when he appeared yesterday at the start of a new Senate probe into the scandal involving allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo rigged the results of the 2004 presidential election with the help of former Commission on Elections Chairman Virgilio Garcillano.

Doble identified the Malacañang official simply as "Medy," who smuggled her as a "secret" agent of President Arroyo.

Opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. quizzed the witness on Monsignor Pedrolino Medalla, assigned to the presidential legislative affairs office. Medalla rang up the vice

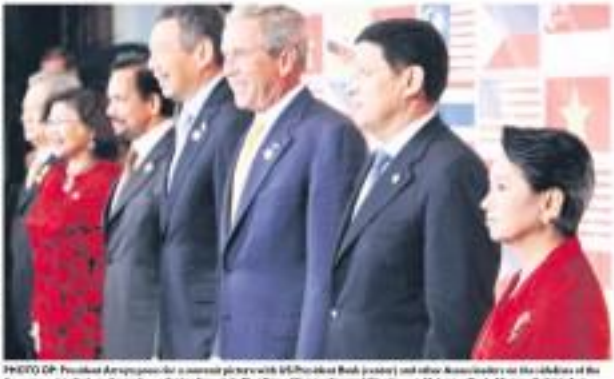

PHOTO OP. President Arroyo poses for a souvenir picture with US President Bush (center) and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the 4pec summit in Sydney, Australia, on Friday. From left: Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Bush and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda.

GMA meet with Bush, US biz execs canceled

By John Liboro Jordan

SYDNEY (1st PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo did not get to have the 20-minute one-on-one meeting she was expecting with US President George W. Bush but the two "talked all the time" during a lunch that Bush hosted for leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday.

Mr. Arroyo's meeting with Bush, the rest of the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' summit here, was canceled at the last minute.

Even the President's plenary meeting with the president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US-Apec Business Council were also canceled. The reasons for both cancellations were unclear.

Bush was supposed to sit down for a meeting with Mr. Arroyo right after the lunch that he hosted for the seven leaders of Asean who are also members of Apec as

Who's Medy, why she makes things happen

By Michael Lim Ubac and Tony Burgonio

HE'S MEDY SPORE AT MALACAÑANG, IN A relative of one of the country's most respected bishops, and she is coming out to face the public soon.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno confirmed late yesterday that Romeo "Medy" L. Poblador is an undersecretary detailed with the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office in the House of Representatives.

Her biggest and most crucial role came in the last presidential election, said one Malacañang source who now understood its goals on the matter.

It was through her that requests for funding for the campaign of members of Team Unity were made, especially those of defeated candidates Lito Montano and Isidro Rigonan, the source added.

"She held the coordinators of the truth," said the source.

The official directory of Malacañang

Gov't grants amnesty to Reds

By Michael Lim Ubac

GIVING AMNESTY WAS "ESSENTIAL TO securing peace and reconciliation," President Macapagal-Arroyo issued on Thursday Proclamation No. 1377 granting amnesty to members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front

(CPP-NPA-NDF), as well as those in detention for political crimes.

Jesus Dureza, the President's peace adviser, said CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison could recall himself of the amnesty but doubt of if it was possible for the latter, who has lived in the Netherlands since 1987, to do so.

The Associated Press yesterday quoted Si-

Corrupt China executive done in by 11 mistresses

BEIJING—A CORRUPT BEIJING OFficial who had been executed by his 11 mistresses after some of their husbands were murdered to death for graft, state media said on Friday.

The seven women just days after a major provincial Communist Party official was executed for allowing up his mistresses to death.

"Several mistresses among government officials had been executed in China and are often blamed for driving men to seek money through bribes.

Erap asks for ma's blessing as verdict out Wednesday

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS ONE LAST court pass to seek his ailing mother's blessing before the verdict on his plunder case is handed down on Wednesday.

Before noon yesterday, the Sandiganbayan Special Division set judgment-day on Sept. 12—a day ahead of

the deadline prescribed by the Constitution—with the issuance of a notice to the accused and an order to the police to produce them in court.

Estrada is accused of amassing almost P4 billion in illegal funds including gambling payoffs and bribes to tax kickbacks, and of falsely declaring his assets. The verdict on his co-respondents in the plunder and perjury cases—his son Jose Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio—will be handed down on the same day.

Several hours after the announcement, the anti-graft court denied a motion pending the ousted President's request to visit his mother Mary Estrada on Sunday at the San Juan Medical Center.

Estrada said the visit was impor-

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WEATHER FORECAST

Joma's plea vs murder raps heard

Dutch court to decide next week whether to prolong his detention

THE HAGUE—A DUTCH COURT heard defense arguments Friday for dropping murder charges against Philippine communist leader Jose Maria Sison, and said it would release Sison on whether to prolong his detention, his lawyer said.

Dutch prosecutors claim Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), ordered the separate killings of two political opponents in Manila in 2003 and 2006. He denies the allegations.

Defense attorney Meize Koppe said the judges "were very interested in the arguments and they want to take a full week to consider them."

Positive sign

Koppe saw that decision as positive. "He has a good chance," the attorney said.

But at his initial court appearance on Aug. 31, judges said there are "serious indications that (Sison) bears guilt for ascertaining or ordering these two murders in the Philippines." He was ordered held while the investigation continues.

Sison, 68, was arrested Aug. 28 in Utrecht, where he has lived in self-imposed exile for 20 years.

Dutch investigators were also studying whether the murders could be considered war crimes, given that they occurred in the context of the Philippines' 38-year-old leftist insurgency, prosecutor spokesman Wim de Bruin said Friday.

Supporters

Dozens of supporters gathered outside the Hague court chanting slogans demanding Sison's release. His wife, Julie De Lima, said his family and international lawyers had complained to the International Committee of the Red Cross against his detention in isolation without visitation rights.

De Lima said five men spotted her husband was based on testimony from the relatives of the men killed. Prosecutors have declined to elaborate on the evidence, saying it was only gathered in the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Sison's supporters fear Dutch authorities are preparing to extradite him to the Philippines, but Koppe said that was unlikely.

"The human rights record of the Philippines is such that there is no way Holland is ever going to extradite Sison," he said.

Big victuals

Dutch prosecutors accuse Sison of ordering the killings of Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004. The CPP, which the European Union also ignored a terrorist group in 2002, claimed responsibility for both slayings.

Yale Johnkholt, chairman of the international arm of the National Democratic Front (NDF), which is the negotiating arm of the left Philippine groups, said "it would be a big mistake" for the Dutch to become embroiled in the Philippines conflict.

Workhorse

He accused the government of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of being "a workhorse" for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and for the US government which is closely allied to her.

Johnkholt also dismissed the offer extended Friday by Mr Arroyo's government of amnesty to communist rebels, in an effort to restore peace talks that have been stalled since 2004. He said similar offers had been made many times in the past.

"There's always a possibility of a truce, but that won't happen while these kind of actions are being carried out," he said, referring to Sison's arrest.

Sison has been denied asylum in the Netherlands. AP

AGRAVAM Before Secretary Nasser Pangandaman's dawn meeting with the rallyists on Wednesday

Protesters storm DAR chief's office, are dispersed by security guards

By TJ Burgonio

PROTESTING FARMER-BENEficiaries stormed the Department of Agrarian Reform building before noon yesterday and staged a sit-down protest outside Secretary Nasser Pangandaman's office before they were violently dispersed.

Some 50 protesters from the Task Force Mapalad broke down an armored gate, dashed across a ramp to the building's second floor, and ran up to Pangandaman's office in the fourth floor.

The move caught policemen and guards by surprise which threw the building into a frenzy and even alarmed DAR employees scurrying across corridors to lock doors.

The protesters were had died together in front of the Secretary's office and were chanting "Pangandaman, resign" when the guards caught up with them. Within minutes, the guards started dragging them down.

Pangandaman, who was presiding over a meeting during the protesters' caper, condemned the recently leaders and members of both peasant organizations, and vowed to file charges against them.

"They're becoming unruly: we have to take action. Some of them were not even farmers," he said in a phone interview. "I take responsibility for the dispersal."

The protesters had been camping outside the DAR since last week. At least 300 massed and screamed a sit-down protest outside the building last Monday, in one of the biggest mobilizations of farmers this year.

The farmers were protesting the reinversion of farmland by agri-business under the RP-China agreement, the non-implementation of boundaries, delayed resolution of cases, and resumption of livestock farming from agrarian reform, among others.

They had demanded the resignations of Pangandaman and three cited level officials for their alleged anti-farmer policies.

Meanwhile, two DAR undersecretaries have filed leaves of absence, acting off rumors that they had quit their posts.

Pangandaman confirmed that Undersecretary Jeffrey Golim and Undersecretary Bernardo Cruz had filed leaves of absence.

He wasn't aware of any reason why the two officials would go on leave, but allayed a theory: "They must be tired from work."

Rumors had been swirling since Thursday that Golim and Cruz had tendered their resignation to President Macapagal-Arroyo, but this could not be confirmed. The two could not be reached for comment.

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China-funded cyber education project also hit

By Allison W. Lopez

ANOTHER MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR PROject recently signed in China has also come under fire. A legislator yesterday slammed the $400 million Cyber Education Program (CEP) which was sealed at the same time as the controversial $329 million National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez branded the two technological contracts signed in China as "twin mirrors of anomaly."

Both projects were to be financed by a concessional loan from China. Copies of both contracts were disclosed.

Rodriguez worried that aside from being more costly than the NBN project, the satellite-based project CEP would "displace hundreds of thousands of teachers" whose role will be taken over by television sets.

The CEP would allow students to watch a taped lecture on a subject, like math or science, on TV in their classrooms. The teacher would be doing the lecture from a studio and the session would be beamed to the students' TV by satellite much in the same way TV networks beam live broadcasts of a Pacquiao boxing match in Las Vegas or an NBA game in Chicago.

Rodriguez said he would raise the CEP in his privilege speech on Monday because he feared that the IT project would turn into a "white elephant."

The CEP contract was signed with Chinese firm Tsinghua Tongfang Research Co. (Nanchi). The Philippine government plans to complete the CEP by 2010.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, on behalf of the Department of Education, signed the contract for the CEP with Dr. Fang Bi-Xing, of Tsinghua, on April 23.

Military to release report in Jonas case; mom elated

By Nikko Dizon
and Leila B. Salaverria

IN WHAT COULD SPELL A PICKUP for the family of missing activist Jonas Burgos, the military leadership yesterday said it would comply with the Court of Appeals order to release the Provost Marshal General's report on a plate number under military custody that was later seen on the vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

"It's a legal court order so by all means we have to follow the court order and the laws of the land," Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

Editha Burgos, Jonas' mother, was elated by Esperon's willingness to release the report, saying it would provide the family with leads in their search for the missing activist.

Editha has been requesting the military for a copy of the report in the belief that it contains important information that could lead to Jonas or his abductors.

"I am very happy he's finally giving a report to the Court of Appeals. I'm sure that report will provide us some leads," she said in a phone interview.

She said the plate number was important because it was a link to her son's abductors.

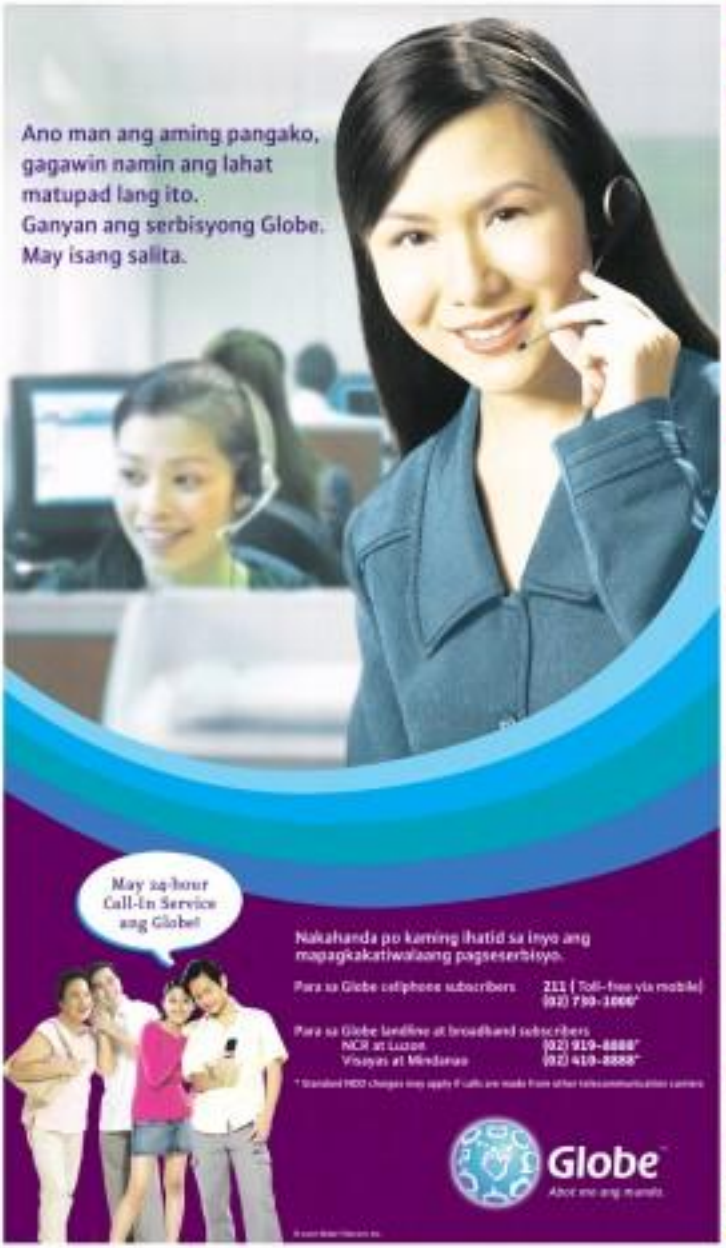
But Editha wondered why it had to take a court directive for the military to give her a copy of the report.

In her earlier petition for habeas corpus, Editha asked the Court of Appeals to subpoena the report of Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla on the loss of a plate number later seen with Jonas' alleged abductors.

Esperon, however, pointed out that the report has been marked "confidential... so that the integrity of some people will not be prejudiced, as well as some security concerns."

"I don't know how the Court of Appeals will treat it if they see some security matters there. But it's a court order and we recognize that. We will comply [with it]," he said.

Jonas, 36, son of the late publisher and press freedom icon, Jose "Joe" Burgos, was abducted by unidentified armed men last April 28 in Quezon City. The plate number of one of the vehicles used by his abductors was later traced to a website impounded at the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.



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CHANGE OF COMMAND
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon turns over the flag to Maj. General Fernando Mesa, the new commander of the National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) vice Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino (left) during rites held Friday at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. DEN MACAPAZ

NO DISCRIMINATION, RULING SAYS

RP nurses lose case vs US hiring firm

By Jerome Aning

THE UNITED STATES' DISCRIMINATION of Asians has dismissed the "unfair immigration-related employment practices" filed by 26 Filipino health care professionals against Aveanna Care LLC, a private network of nursing homes based in New York.

Sentinel's Manila-based lawyer Ruben Fernandez Jr. said the eventual decision was only informed of the decision last Aug. 31.

Katherine Baldwin, special deputy counsel of the US DOJ Civil Rights Division, sent a letter to Elizabeth Hack, legal counsel of Aveanna Care LLC, New York which said: "Based on our investigation, the office has determined that there is insufficient evidence of reasonable cause to believe the injured parties were discriminated against as prohibited by the 8 U.S.C. § 1324b."

Baldwin was referring to the Unfair Immigration Related Employment Practices Under Section 274 B, Section 1324b, which prohibits any form of employment discrimination based on national origin and citizenship status.

"The dismissal stated that the US DOJ has determined that there was insufficient evidence of reasonable cause to believe that the injured parties were discriminated," said Fernandez in a phone interview.

"This ruling proves that Aveanna was not engaged in any illegal practices. This proves that the accusations were not telling the truth when they said they were maltreated in violation of US laws. This means that the case is closed," he added.

Fernandez said the case had been studied by the DOJ for about a year and the investigation was "very thorough," adding: "They took all our important records, including personnel and computer records, pertaining to all its employees in order to evaluate the complaints."

Tapnotcher

The 26 Filipino health care workers, mostly nurses and physical therapists, had accused Aveanna of breach of contract, as they were assigned to work outside the scope specified in the contract.

Among the nurses is Elmer Jacinto, a medical doctor who supposedly board exams in Manila but instead opted to go to the United States to work as a nurse for higher pay.

The other health care professionals are: Juliet Andres, Hazelet Ardia, James Millena, Mark Ada Cruz, Claudine Gamino, Jennifer Lantpa, Nora Macilon, Maria Theresa Santos and Ruben Sidlon.

The nurse touched political proprieties when the complainants charged that the POEA recalled its initial suspension order against Santos at the behest of then Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor.

POEA lifted the suspension and threw out unverified charges of labor malpractice alleged by the health care workers against Aveanna facilities in New York.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, who said Defensor merely called her to inquire about the matter, said that an US immigrant visa holders, the complainants' rights were "amply protected by the host government from whom immediate redress can be secured."

Sentinel still has a pending case of illegal recruitment and contract substitution before the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Baldoz said she was ready to rule on the case by August but had to delay coming out with the decision after she took a leave of absence due to the death of a family member.

Breach of contract

The health care professionals, through their lawyer Felix Vidanes, filed the case at the US DOJ accusing Sentinel of breach of contract.

They were recruited from Manila by Sentinel Recruitment Agency. Both the recruitment agency and the network of nursing homes are owned by one person identified by Vidanes as Ben Philipsen, who is chief operating officer and managing partner.

The nurses and PTs claimed they were made to work for a different facility other than the one mentioned in their contracts.

AFP: No decision yet to buy China-made aircraft

SEOUL: A FIVE-MAN team in look over Chinese-made aircraft being offered for sale to the Air Force was not an endorsement nor a commitment to buy, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said yesterday.

The PAF team went to China on the invitation of aircraft manufacturer China Aviation Industry Corp. (CAIC) to view its line of utility helicopters and fixed-wing transport aircraft.

"There's a recipro bidding, but so far then are the only ones who have invited us to look at their products," said Tolentino.

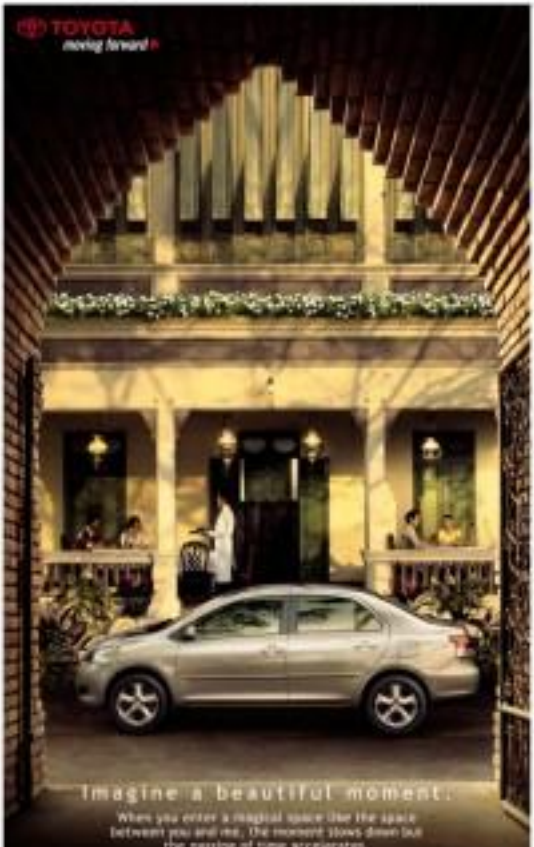
He said the PAF paid for the trip of the team which is expected to return to Manila this weekend.

The team includes representatives from the Cebu-based 220th Airlift Wing and the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing and a leader] by PAF Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Indro De Jesus.

The Air Force is looking to replace its aging fleet which currently has no China-made aircraft in its arsenal.

Tolentino said military asset procurement is a long and complicated process and the senior inspection mission should not be taken as a sign that the PAF would buy China-made aircraft.

The Chinese offer came as questions are being raised worldwide about the integrity of China-made products, from toys to food items. Reva Quiaverando



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Q : What does it take to become production house of the year?

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You want to sail? Be clean

By Marglue C. Ortiz

GOOD HYGIENE PAYS.

The Filipinos' love for taking baths has become an advantage for the country's seafarers in terms of job opportunities, according to a top official of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

"Filipinos are recognized for their exceptional hygiene and personal grooming," said Roger Peryuan, Tesda deputy director, presented in a Field operations, in a press conference in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) yesterday.

"This practice of ours has not escaped shipping companies who appreciate neat-looking employees."

According to Peryuan, Filipinos are well-known for their cleanliness. "It contrast to other nationalities who do not practice every day personal hygiene."

Peryuan also said that aside from their grasp of the English language, Filipino seafarers were most sought after because of their humility and respectfulness.

"Filipino seafarers are also well-trained and do not figure in many fights or brawls," the Tesda official said.

Peryuan noted that since 1907, the Philippines has been the leading supplier of seafarers in the international market. He said Filipinos account for almost 20 percent of the 1.23 million seafarers worldwide.

"However, not enough of our seamen are able to occupy the positions of ship officers," Peryuan said, adding that seven of the country's 300,000 seafarers failed the qualifications for higher positions.

He urged seafarers to take up additional units in school when they come home for vacation.

DA grilled on P3-B irrigation funds

By Cleimarx Y. Esguerra

A MILITANT LAWMAKER YESterday questioned Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap over the proposed release of at least P3 billion in irrigation funds during the campaign period for the May 2007 elections.

Speaking during the House budget deliberations, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the funds were released in two batches—P900 million in January and P2.4 billion in March.

Glaring similarity

He noted its glaring similarity to the controversial release of fertilizer funds during the May 2004 elections. He was referring to the P2.8 billion fertilizer scam allegedly involving former agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Tess Ita.

"I hope this time in irrigation, it won't happen again," Ocampo said.

Yap, who attended the budget hearings to justify his department's proposed P125.9 billion budget for 2008, explained that the timing of the release of the funds was merely "coincidental" with the May 2007 elections.

Bottom line

"But don't really the point (about our modern-type irrigation facilities) because there was no one," he told the lawmaker. "The dry season is the best time to undertake all infrastructure repairs for irrigation."

Speaking to the Inquirer at the sidelines of the budget hearing, Emilio Ramos, Ilocos Sur governor, said the P900 million was a loan by the National Irrigation Authority.

The P2.4 billion came from the national appropriation this year, he said.

'Focus provinces'

Ramos showed a document purportedly showing that the P2.4 billion was intended for 27 "focus provinces."

These include Kalinga, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Aurora, Quezon, Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Aklan, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, and Bohol.

"There are basically two questions here," Ramos said. "Why the money really spent for the projects and how come it was released during the campaign period?"

Highlighted

The funding for irrigation was highlighted during the committee on appropriation deliberations, partly because it was also the priority of the proposed 2008 budget of the agriculture department.

The allocation for irrigation was increased from P7.4 billion this year to P9.8 billion next year, accounting for 44 percent of the total agriculture budget.

Abu Sayyaf man linked to bomb expert nabbed

A MEMBER OF THE ABU Sayyaf terrorist group linked to Jemaah Islamiyah explosives expert Dulmatin has been arrested in Palawan, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon announced yesterday.

Esperon identified the Abu member as Abu Rogers but did not give details of the arrest.

Abu Rogers was also implicated in the Dos Palmas kidnapping of foreign and local tourists in 2001, Esperon said.

He said the arrest was significant in Abu Mugura belonged to the terrorist cell of Dulmatin, one of the two suspects in the 2002 Bali bombing. Dulmatin and Umar Patek have reportedly been hiding in Indo.

Esperon told reporters that Abu Mugura escaped from Sulu to Palawan "because of the pressure that we are applying there."

Nikko Dizon

AT EASE: An armed policeman guards the Equitable Building in Makati City where the Danish Embassy is located during a rally staged by Jorna Sosa's supporters on Friday. AFP/LILLIAN

Erap asks for ma's blessing …

From page A1

nave to him as he would be asking for his mother's blessing before the promulgation of the 6-year-old case.

After the visit in the hospital, he is supposed to his residence on Polk Street in Greenhills to meet with his lawyers. He is under orders from the court to remain in his executive estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been under house arrest since 2001, at 9 a.m. on the same day.

"I am ready to face whatever the verdict will be…But at the same time, I still believe, and I feel, that I will be acquitted based on the merits of the case," Estrada coolly told the Inquirer over the phone.

He said he had to cut the call short because he was watching the live TV coverage of the reversed Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which suggested that President Macapagal-Arroyo rigged the 2004 presidential election.

Estrada's lawyer Jose Sagoncay was not pleased with the Sandiganbayan's announcement, saying it was made on short notice.

'Stars against us'

"The alignment of the stars is against us. The entire system is against us," Sagoncay said. He said Estrada's face was decoded on Jan. 20, 2005, when the majority of the Supreme Court justices went to Edsa to swear in the then Vice President Arroyo as President.

"We don't expect a lower court to tell the Supreme Court that it is wrong. Still, we are hoping against hope that the justices will see that case the way we see it," he said.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro chairs the Special Division; Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Rosalyn Penalosa are the members.

Sagoncay also said he and the other defense lawyers had yet to discuss matters pertinent to the promulgation, which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday with stringent rules imposed on media coverage.

135 max

According to the guidelines issued yesterday by Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urbiza, only 'is-sue reporter per media organization will be allowed to enter the courtroom. The others will be accommodated in an adjacent room, where an audio system will be set up.

The number of people in the courtroom will be limited to 120, with journalists accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis, Urbiza said.

No media file office would be open as early as 6 a.m. Wednesday to take reservations.

The Sheriff's office has also limited the numbers of the defense and prosecution camps to 20 each, including the families of the three accused.

But Special Prosecutor Jeremy Villa Ignacio said he was inviting at most 50 people, including the original members of the prosecution panel.

No live coverage

Taking orders from the Supreme Court, Urbiza said live coverage of the historic event would not be allowed. Still-and-video cameras will be banned from the Sandiganbayan building.

"These guidelines were also observed during the trial of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith of the US Marines," Urbiza pointed out. (Smith was convicted earlier this year of raping a Filipino woman while on exercises at the Subic Bay Freeport in November 2005.)

Cell phones, tape recorders, even knitted wear, will not be allowed in the courtroom.

Media personnel will also be barred from roaming the Sandiganbayan premises.

The strict rules did not sit well with photographers and a number of reporters, particularly those working in television networks.

Villa Ignacio, the lead prosecutor in the plunder case, said the promulgation should be held at the Sandiganbayan auditorium on the sixth floor—which can hold 300 people—to allow live coverage.

"This is not an ordinary case," he said of the trial that ran from October 2000 to June 11.

Confident of conviction

Villa Ignacio expressed confidence that the court would hand down a guilty verdict.

He said he could not imagine the court approximating differently the evidence that the prosecution had presented.

"We have a very high confidence level that we will get a conviction," Villa Ignacio told reporters.

He pointed out that the case had been upheld by the court through a denial of the defense's demurrer to evidence in 2004. He said the court had ruled that the evidence presented by the prosecution, unless sufficiently rebutted, was adequate enough to convict Estrada.

Villa Ignacio also noted that the court had likewise junked Estrada's motion for bail because the evidence against him was strong.

"Bail kinsabi nilanced admitted signing the name 'Jose 'Jolando' on bank documents," he added.

In full battle gear

At Camp Crame, the Philippine National Police pronounced itself ready to secure Estrada on judgment day.

"We are already prepared as of now. We are fine-tuning the security requirements," Chief Supt. Jaime Hilomen, director of the Police Security and Protection Office, told reporters.

He added that he would assign some 150 policemen to serve as "close-in" security for the former President.

PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wenfla, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said he would deploy a total of 6,000 police and army personnel around the Sandiganbayan two days before Sept. 12, or starting Monday.

Hilomen's deputy, former Supt. Joel Maccarillas, said formation convoy from Camp Crame to the Sandiganbayan would be composed of armed-sight vehicles with some 54 policemen on board, and at least two more teams for the elite PNP Special Action Force to Full battle gear.

Hilomen said media vehicles would not be allowed to tail the convoy.

On the anticipated mass actions by Estrada partisans, Hilomen said his office was coordinating with the NCRPO, which would provide the bulk of the anti-riot troops.

The PNP had earlier announced that 4,000 security police would be deployed. The military's National Capital Region Command had committed 2,000 soldiers.

"We are all confident that things will run peaceful and orderly, and there will be no law violated," The Associated Press quoted PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon as saying.

Hilomen said contingency plans were in place in the event of a serious threat to Estrada's life. With a report from Marlon Ramos

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC

Re: REVISED UPGRADING SCHEDULE OF THE LEGAL FEES IN THE SUPREME COURT AND THE LOWER COURTS UNDER RULE 141 OF THE RULES OF COURT

RESOLUTION

Acting on the proposed guidelines submitted by the Office of the Court Administrator pursuant to the Resolution dated July 1, 2005, the Court RESOLVED to:

(a) ADOPT the attached Guidelines in the Implementation of Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, as Amended;

(b) DIRECT the implementation of Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, as amended, in all collegiate-style and autodesignated pilot trading areas, all lower courts in the National Capital Judicial Region and in 4 cities City, Mandaue City, and Lapu-Lapu City; and

(c) DIRECT the Office of the Court Administrator to submit to us before December 31, 2007 a written report on the prior working of the amended rule and its implementing guidelines. Upon the entry of the Resolution, all resolutions, orders and circulars of this Court which are inconsistent herewith are repealed or modified accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect on September 1, 2007.

August 28, 2007.

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 1 OF RULE 141 OF THE RULES OF COURT, as AMENDED

Pursuant to the Resolution dated April 11, 2007 in A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC amending Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, the following guidelines for the payment of fees, its modes and effects are hereby adopted:

SEC. 1. Payment of Fees. – Upon filing of any initiatory pleading, all prescribed fees and such other contributions to the Judiciary development fund and special allowance for the Judiciary Fund, and other fees necessary to the Legal Research Fund, Victim Compensation Fund and Mediation Fund, shall be paid in full, provided that, in petitions for rehabilitation under the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation, filing fee in excess of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) may be paid on a staggered basis, subject to the provisions of Section 2 hereof, in accordance with the schedule prescribed under the Resolution of this Court in A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC dated September 13, 2005.

SEC. 2. Mode of Payment. – The filing fees may be paid in cash or by check, as follows:

(a) Cash Payment

(1) If fees are accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund or Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund and/or fund such as but not limited to the Legal Research Fee, Victim Compensation Fee, Mediation Fee, and/ adjusted fee.

(2) Partial payment of the Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) in dollar-issued travel expenses in the service of humanitarian, religious and other non-governmental.

(b) Cashier's/Bank Payment

(1) If fees are accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or less

(2) Fees accruing to the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or less

(c) Check Payment

(1) If fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)

(2) Fees accruing to the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)

Check payment may be in the form of personal, company or manager's check, provided that, if the amount exceeds Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), it shall be paid in manager's check.

SEC. 3. When payment is made in check. – All checks shall be crossed. No postdated, altered, or third party check shall be accepted. Only checks in the account name of the lawyer or law firm or the party litself shall accompany filing an action shall be accepted.

The fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund or the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund shall be paid in separate checks payable to the "SUPREME COURT, JUDICIARY DEVELOPMENT FUND (JDF)" or to the "SUPREME COURT, SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE JUDICIARY FUND (SAJF)", respectively. The checks number, name of the case, and the court where the case was filed shall be indicated at the dorsal/back portion of the check.

The official receipt issued for payment by check shall be annexed to the following motion: "PAYMENT CHEQUE BEING UPON CHECK BEING CLEARED." The official receipt shall reflect accurately the name of the party on whose behalf the payment is made, the check number and date of the case, the amount paid in words and/or figures, the check number, the name of the bank and the branch where the check is drawn and all the details as mentioned. The official receipt issued to the party signed by the Clerk of Court/Deputy, Assistant of the clerk. The Clerk of Court retains the official receipt and issues a certified true copy thereof to the payor.

SEC. 4. When check is dishonored. – Upon receipt of the notice of dishonor of the check from the depository bank by the Supreme Court, the Fiscal Management and Budget Office (FMBO) shall advise in writing the Clerk of Court concerned within five (5) days from receipt of the notice of dishonor. In exceptional case cases, the Clerk of Court shall advise in writing the Branch Clerk of Court where the case was raffled of the dishonor of the check within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the notice.

The case shall forthwith have an order dismissing the case, in consonance with Section 1 of Rule 17 Upon the dismissal of the case, the official receipt is automatically considered cancelled. No motion for reconsideration of the order of dismissal shall be entertained. The dismissal of the case shall be without prejudice to the filing of a case against the drawer of the dishonored check.

SEC. 5. Duty of the Clerk of Court, Officer-in-Charge or Accountable Officer. – The Clerk of Court, the Officer-in-Charge or the Officer of the Clerk of Court, or the duly authorized accountable officer designated in writing shall strictly observe the procedural guidelines in the collection of fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund and the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund, provided under Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 13-2004 dated August 30, 2004.

SEC. 6. Submission of Monthly Reports. – The Clerk of Court shall accomplish a Monthly Report of Docketed Cases also in Statement of Books using Form 47-C (a copy of which is herein attached as Annex "C") to be submitted to the Accounting Division, Financial Management Office, Office of the Court Administrator within five (5) days after the end of each month, attaching thereto the certification issues in the following documents:

(a) consolidated official receipts;

(b) deposit slips;

(c) bank passbook with reflection and deposits of checks; and

(d) cash orders denoting the same.

In the Collection and Monthly Reports of the Judiciary Development Fund and the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund, two sub-columns bearing the headings "Checks Received" and "Cleared or Collected" shall be added under the columns of "Official Receipts Issued".

SEC. 7. Judicial Notice of Assessment and Collection of Docket Fees. – Matters relating to the propriety and correctness of the assessment and collection of docket fees are judicial in nature and should only be determined by the regular courts, pursuant to the Resolution of the Court dated March 6, 2000 in A.M. No. 00-1-03-SC.

SEC. 8. Refund by Filing Fees. – The refund of filing fees paid by the court on account of orders issued by the judges shall be referred to the Chief Justice through the Court Administrator, pursuant to the Resolution of the Court dated October 12, 2000 in A.M. No. 00-9-256-SC.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – These Guidelines shall take effect on October 1, 2007 or its equivalent in law or the Court, by resolution, may direct.

Other matters relating to thereby explained.

Issued this 28th day of August 2007.

Military engineers due in Basilan today

MILITARY ENGINEERS FROM the Philippine Air Force (PAF) are expected to arrive in Zamboanga today after a roughly three-day trip by sea from Manila to construct an airstrip here.

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino told reporters yesterday that engineering units from the Air Force and the Philippine Navy would stay in Basilan until they have completed a four-lane reconstructed road in the province's southern town of ...

"The team, which left Manila on Wednesday, included a 90-man contingent from PAF's 950th Aviation Engineering Wing. The team brought with them heavy equipment, including bulldozers, payloaders and cargo trucks.

"The Air Force also sent a 91-man security team from the Clark-based 710th Special Operations Wing (SPOW) to the project site via C-130 planes.

"The idea is for our engineering unit to be self-sustaining. While our engineers are at work, the men from SPOW will provide security so that we won't have to ask ground forces down in Sunset the Marines and the Army] to provide security," said Tolentino.

Tolentino will join Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro in welcoming the crews.

The PAF chief said the engineering units would stay in a Marine camp near the project site, which spans some 63 kilometers of improved road through the towns of Tipo-Tipo, Sumisip and Lantawan, among others.

"Hopefully, something good will come out of this. We go there for government's humanitarian efforts, so that the people will know that Armed Forces is not there just to combat terrorists but also do humanitarian work," said Tolentino. Dona Quiamzon

PNPA sets admission test Oct. 28

THE PHILIPPINE National Police Academy (PNPA) that provides Cadetship Program for future police, fire and jail commissioned officers will administer its annual Cadet Admission Test (CAT) for the four-year Bachelor of Science in Public Safety (BSPS) on Oct. 28, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

Applicants must be 18 to 22 years old single; male or female; at least high school graduate with good academic performance; and no derogatory record.

Application forms are available at PS, DSSC all units of PNP DPP and NHQ. It can also be downloaded at www.pnpa.edu.ph or www.pnpa.gov.ph.

Condoleezza cites RP successes in global campaign vs terrorism

By Cynthia G. Balana

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF State Condoleezza Rice yesterday cited the Philippines' contributions to the global efforts to stop terrorism and reaffirmed the strong partnership between the two countries, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had a 20-minute one-on-one with Rice on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Ministerial Meeting in Sydney, Australia.

"Dr. Rice congratulated the Philippines for its continuing success in the campaign against terrorism and described Philippine-US partnership in counterterrorism as 'leading the way'," said the DFA, quoting Romulo.

"This reaffirms both the Philippines and the United States' strong partnership and our willingness to expand our collaboration on key areas of counterterrorism and peace and development work," the foreign secretary said.

Romulo said Rice stated that both the US and the Philippines, "have made a good impact" in the area against terror.

For his part, Romulo stressed the value of sustained partnership in the achievement of greater stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said the Philippines and the US were seeking to further strengthen cooperation in counterterrorism and peace and development.

Soft/hard approach

During the meeting, both Romulo and Rice recognized the importance of strengthening the "soft approach" against terrorists and extremism, along with the "hard approach."

They both stressed the need to continue working together to break the back of international terrorism, and continue efforts to "win the minds and hearts of peoples against extremism which breeds terrorism."

Romulo said the US had been successful in intervention soft approaches with high impact for communities, particularly in Mindanao.

He also said that projects under the US Agency for International Development (USAID) include those on health, education and infrastructure were important to bring lasting peace in Mindanao.

"With the sustained support of friends like the United States, we will continue to make significant headway," Romulo said.

GMA meet with Bush, US business execs canceled

Front page 1

the sidelines of the summit.

It was something that the President was looking forward to, as she told an interviewer from "The Australian" newspaper in Manila before she left for Sydney.

The President's aides said a "pull-aside" meeting might still be pulled off today but Ms Arroyo said it was no longer necessary.

'I said everything I had to say'

"You know I said already everything that I have to say," she told reporters after the lunch.

Ms said Bush commended her on the Philippines' gains in the fight against international on the terrorism front.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo downplayed the last-minute cancellation of the meeting, which was apparently made upon the US request.

"They were talking all the time before and during [lunch] and they will talk tomorrow. So the things that have to be talked about have been discussed," Romulo said.

At the luncheon, Bush invited all the Asean head-ers, including an official from Burma (Myanmar's), as Texas despite his increasingly sharp attacks on the Burmese military regime.

In recent days, Bush has branded Burma's leaders as "tyrannical" and their crackdown on pro-democracy activists and protests over fuel prices as "inexcusable" as US officials talked about "next steps" to pressure Rangoon.

"I invited the Asean leaders to Texas at their convenience. I'm looking forward to hosting you down there," said Bush, who reserves invitations to Texas as a diplomatic plum for close allies.

The Texas agenda

He said democracy promotion, the war on terrorism, trade expansion, avian flu, and climate change would be on the agenda for the talks, which could take place in his ranch or "ranch-er location". In Texas, no-one said.

While Asean ministerial security spokesperson Gen. Abhazhar Imir said all Asean heads of state and government had been invited, but Burma's "level of participation is to be determined."

Bush also announced that Washington would soon be running an ambassador to Asean "so that we can make sure that the ties we've established over the past years remain firmly entrenched."

Asean represents our fourth largest trading partner. In other words, this is a group of friends that represent more than just social arguments, you represent economic and trade and prosperity," he said.

Romulo said the invitation was for the holding of the 30th anniversary of US-Asean relations to Texas, specifically to his father's library at the University of Texas and close to his ranch.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Bush's announcement came hours after he called on Apec leaders to pile pressure on the military rulers of Burma to free pro-democracy activists including Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and democracy icon who has been under house arrest for 11 of the past 17 years.

"We must press the regime in Burma to stop arresting and harassing and assaulting pro-democracy activists for organizing or participating in peaceful demonstrations," Bush said in his keynote speech.

Of the seven Asean leaders invited to the luncheon, only Ms Arroyo, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Thai Prime Minister Isamyod Chidsomit and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended. Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam were represented by lower-ranked officials.

The President appeared unperturbed over the canceled meeting with Bush. Slated to be course to ambush interviews, she volunteered to talk to reporters covering her trip about her chat with Bush as she arrived for a meeting with leaders of the Filipino community in Australia yesterday. She was accompanied by her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and some members of the House of Representatives.

GMA not disappointed

Ambassador Mariano Peyrot Jr., chief of presidential protocol, said Ms Arroyo was not disappointed.

"It doesn't matter whether you are seated or not as long as you talked," said Peyrot who added a "pull-aside" meeting might take place today at the opening of the two-day Apec leaders' summit.

But Ms Arroyo said it would not be necessary since they had covered the issues they were supposed to discuss, Peyrot said.

It was only when Bush cleared to leave after the lunch that Philippine officials knew the one-on-one was a no-go.

Peyrot said "something came up" which required the cancellation of the 2 p.m. meeting. He said the one-on-one was "bracketed" as tentative in the US president's schedule. He said Bush's schedule was tight since he would be leaving today instead of Sunday when the Apec summit ends.

Praise from Bush

"One of the first things that Bush talked about [was] praising the Philippines' antiterror campaign. I said the US also has a share in the praise because of our strong partnership in the South," Ms Arroyo said.

"How's the economy doing?" she quoted Bush as asking. She told him about the 7.3 percent growth in the second quarter, the highest in decades.

"When he said that he would invite us to Texas, I said that's great because then I can visit Texas Instruments to thank them for the $1 billion investments in the Philippines," she said.

The President said Bush also said the US has plans to give aid for reforestation in the Philippines. But she said she wanted to ask instead for funds for roads in Basilan and Jolo and seaport in Jolo.

She said the Philippines has already asked New Zealand to channel its assistance to the Philippines in reforestation.

Voice of developing nations

As the Apec summit opens today to tackle climate change and other pressing regional issues, the President will be the leading voice of developing countries in asserting that richer nations do more in cutting greenhouse gas emissions to avert global warming, said Environment Secretary Lito Atienza.

He said Ms Arroyo would be voicing the position of majority of Apec members that the Kyoto Protocol, which imposes caps on greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries but not on developing countries, should be followed in addressing climate change.

In a speech before the 5th Global Filipino Networking Convention yesterday, the President declared that "our [developing countries] are not the villain as far as climate change is concerned."

"Countries like the Philippines contribute less than one percent of the world greenhouse gas emissions so we are not a villain as far as climate change is concerned," Ms Arroyo said.

Australia, backed by the US, has proposed a new approach which calls on developing countries to also cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

Australian approval

The Australian proposal veers away from the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty which calls on industrialized nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5 percent from their 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

The Kyoto Protocol, an amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, does not impose reductions on developing countries.

The US and Australia, among the countries with the biggest greenhouse gas emissions, have signed the Kyoto Protocol but have not ratified it.

Palace lawyer to Abalos . . .

From page A1

work (NBN) project to a Chinese company.

Apostol said Mendoza's and Abalos' unholy "alliance" was only fueling conspiracy and other theories that could undermine the Arroyo administration.

Betraying some impatience with the two old friends, Apostol said President Macapagal-Arroyo has been unfairly dragged into the mess by Mendoza's unwarranted silence.

Reached by phone in Leyte, Apostol said Mendoza was "the person who should be the one answering" all the allegations, including the alleged role played by Abalos and the alleged P200-million attempt to bribe former Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri.

"He's the one behind, but he chose to say nothing," Apostol said.

Heads to roll?

"He [Mendoza] should come out openly. He's quiet, refusing to speak on the matter. Why don't you ask him if he has become mute?" he said.

But the Palace lawyer said Ms Arroyo would take action, hinting that heads would roll.

"She's holding her actions. If she takes action immediately, that will be misinterpreted because of it; many investigations [going on now]," he said without elaborating.

"She must be waiting for something," he said.

Apostol said the President may also be waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court on the petition filed by Rolito Vice Gov Rodeo Inquillen seeking to scrap the ZTE deal for being unconstitutional.

"[That] should clear the air, so no cause in taking action [now]," he said. But should the high court rule against the deal, Apostol said the President "should take action already."

Apostol said it was for Abalos and Mendoza to summon whether a resignation was in order.

The Makati Business Club and four other business groups called on Abalos to resign in a paid advertisement titled, "A Growing Culture of Impunity," which came out in yesterday's issue of the Inquirer. (Story on Page A1.)

"It's up to Abalos. Anyway, that one is addressed to Abalos," Apostol said.

Apostol also refused to comment on other points raised in the ad, including support for a Senate inquiry and full disclosure of the details of the $329-million ZTE contract to implement the government's national broadband network project.

"Actually, it's hard to issue a comment on that because they will again come up with a paid ad attacking me instead," he said.

Ask Mendoza

As for the demand to "unwind" the contract, Apostol said, "That question is better asked to Mendoza."

It was Apostol who told the Inquirer last month that legally speaking, there was no contract to speak of between the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. and the Department of Transportation and Communications since the documents signed in the presence of Ms Arroyo on April 21 in Hainan, China, were stolen.

Apostol said the contracts for the NBN and the Cyber Education Program, which were signed the same day did not pass through his office for legal scrutiny because the documents were missing.

The DOTC later said that the contracts had been surrendered.

"How can I say that there's a contract when I have not seen it?" Apostol said yesterday.

No media briefing

Since the NBN controversy erupted last month, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has been telling reporters that they should direct their questions to Mendoza, saying the $329 deal was "his [Mendoza's] baby."

Mendoza came out with a paid ad instead, defending the project. He has refused to brief the media on the controversy which eventually spilled over to the House of Representatives.

However, Apostol said he had heard that Mendoza would be answering the questions either in Congress or this week's two-weeks' time.

DOST broadband system uses existing telecoms

SCIENCE SECRETARY ESTRELLA Alabastro said that based on the experience of the Department of Science and Technology, maintaining a national broadband network can be done even without foreign funding and a multimillion-dollar contract.

Alabastro, who is one of the department's information technology experts, said the DOST has been maintaining a national broadband system using existing telecommunications infrastructure and paying for it with funds from its modest budget.

Alabastro said the DOST's Philippine Research Education and Government Information Network (Pregine), which connects 58 research and development institutions all over the country, has been in operation for several years now. The cost of the Pregine was 75.2 billion.

He said the department sought approval for overseas development assistance for its project in 2000 from the National Economic and Development Authority. However, the Neda did not approve their proposal or "we were denied with the project and funded it locally," Alabastro said.

Alabastro was speaking at a House committee on appropriations hearing on the DOST budget proposal for 2008.

Asked by Rep. Rolin Golez if the DOST was ever consulted by the DOTC about the NBN project, Alabastro said: "I have never seen that contract." (Turn to the back to A4)

5 Big Business groups seek Abalos . . .

From page A1

Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc. and Action for Economic Reforms said they were "appalled that the culture of impunity among government officials appears to have spread to an extent exceeding that of all past administrations."

"A glaring example is that of Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos who has no business in allowing himself to be entertained by officials of ZTE Corporation, a potential contractor of the Republic, particularly considering he had an important electoral exercise to administer. His indiscreet conduct and absence from his official duties could only have happened if he believed he was immune from sanctions. We therefore reiterate our call for Chairman Abalos to resign," the business groups said.

Abalos has been accused of allegedly helping to broker the $329-million broadband deal with China-based ZTE Corp. by connecting key Cabinet officials like Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza with executives of the Chinese company.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is the initiator of the NBN project which aims to build a backbone to interconnect the telephone, cellular and Internet services of all government offices.

But the business groups said the government should get its hands off the national broadband network project, saying business is better left alone and to the hands of the private sector.

They also urged Mendoza to immediately rescind the contract with ZTE.

No transparency

The business groups called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to take immediate action to rectify the blatant wrongdoing of public officials, "lest she be accused of condoning them."

Abalos, however, shrugged off calls for his resignation, saying the business groups have no grounds for such a call since he has done nothing wrong.

"Why. What action have I committed? On what ground? Just because they are asking, I brokered (the deal)," Abalos asked.

MBC executive director Alberto A. Lim said the business groups issued the joint statement because they wanted to uphold transparency and good governance.

The statement came out as a paid ad in yesterday's issue of the Inquirer.

Lim said the deal with ZTE "closed [Comelec] transparency [and] there was no bidding."

"This is a sign that there is an level playing field," he said.

"What is more, the NBN contract is tainted or appears to be tainted. We do not even know if there was a dredge for the project because none was done in some," Lim said in a phone interview.

If there was no project dredge on which to base the contract price, then the quoted $330 million was even more questionable, he said.

Gov't not following law

Moreover, the government is committing to use a telecommunications service project, which is something that the private sector should be providing, Lim said.

"We have a law that discourages government from doing what the business sector should be doing. The government is not following the law," to the NBN case, he said.

According to Lim, the proper way would have been to let the private sector build the NBN through the build-operate-transfer scheme, and to architect those their own technology.

"Let us use the [a tax-willing consortium] China's recycling of its excess foreign exchange reserves like what the Arabs do with their petro dollars," Lim said.

Lim said the need for an NBN was questionable in the first place. He said it would only mean more capacity as there already are two existing telecommunications backbones...that of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and of the Telecom Infrastructure Corp. of the Phils., a consortium of PLDT's rivals.

"Either way, an NBN would only mean rising costs for consumers in terms of higher prices for the electricity of users and in users by the payment of a loan that would fund the project," Lim said.

The Inquirer tried to reach Mendoza for his comments on the business groups' demand for the ZTE contract to be rescinded, but both his mobile phones were unavailable. Text messages sent remained as well.

Calls and text messages to DOTC Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso's mobile phone also went unanswered, as were messages to the department's public affairs personnel.

The House of Representatives has adopted five votes on impeachment, partly in anticipation of the possible filing of an impeachment complaint against Abalos.

The votes adopted last Tuesday were the same ones used during the two failed impeachment cases filed against President Arroyo in the previous Congress. (With reports from Cherie L. Lucas, Beverly T. Trinidad and Christine N. Reposar)

ISSN 0116-2442 INQUIRER VOL. XXVI, NO. 272

OPINION

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Worsening stink

EDITORIAL

THE CHINESE COMPANY THAT BAGGED THE CONtract to build the $329 million national broadband network (NBN) for the Philippine government says it has nothing to hide. "There was complete transparency in the proposal, evaluation and approval of ZTE's application for the Philippines' NBN contract," the company said in a statement issued earlier this week.

Transparency, however, is the last word that comes to the mind of anyone who has followed the controversy as it has slowly unfolded since the contract was signed in April this year. Up to now, Filipino taxpayers know little about the NBN contract beyond the fact that they will be paying close to P1 billion a year for over 20 years for a project that may not be necessary and which the government is ill-equipped to operate and maintain, according to two economics professors from the University of the Philippines. Everything that the Filipino people know so far is either what ZTE's competitors have revealed or what the media have extracted bit by bit from government officials. At one point, Cabinet officials even tried to mislead the public by denying that a contract had already been concluded and claiming that what was signed in Boao, China, last April was either a memorandum of agreement or a memorandum of understanding. More is probably known about the negotiations and how top officials, like Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, illegally helped broker the deal and tried to hush up ZTE's unhappy competitors for the project, or got bribe offers amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos.

But a contract does exist and it was signed and sealed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo in China, and what it says and what it does not say probably explain why the Arroyo administration wanted to keep it under wraps.

One interesting item in the contract, for example, gives the two parties plenty—even unlimited—elbow room to adjust the price. It says: "The Priced Bill of Quantities shall be revised in accordance with the actual requirements to be determined and approved by the purchaser and the contractor during the detailed engineering stage." In other words, the $329 million contract price, which is already too much, according to ZTE's rivals, can still go higher. Could this be the reason the government signed a $400-million loan, so that it will have an extra $71 million to cover what is called a "change order"? This is a ploy often used to jack up the price so that greedy officials can get more from an already graft-ridden project.

What is even more unusual is that the contract does not say exactly what the government will be getting for $329 million. The scope of work is left undefined. The contract merely says that ZTE "shall prepare and complete the detailed engineering services, the plans, specifications and designs" for the government's approval. If there are no plans, no specifications and no designs, what is the government committing to pay $329 million for?

Only an idiot would pay for a car without knowing what kind of engine he is getting or how many passengers it can take, but that is not much different from what the administration is doing in regard to the NBN project. The only difference is that it is not the signatory, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, or the witness, President Arroyo, who will be stuck with the bill, but the Filipino people. And the administration would not even want them to know what they will be paying for. It wants the people to take on blind faith that the project is necessary and the terms of the contract are the best anyone can get. Thus, it has gone ahead and signed the contract without opening the project to public bidding. And the excuse it is giving is that this is a government-to-government transaction.

That is true of the loan agreement signed last week in Manila. It is not the case with the supply agreement with ZTE, unless that company has declared its independence from China.

A growing number of lawmakers have been calling for the abrogation of the contract, and the investigation of everyone involved in it. The business community has voiced a similar demand. Now that the onerous details of this flimsy contract are becoming known, there is even more reason to rush it. The stink is just too much for anyone to ignore.

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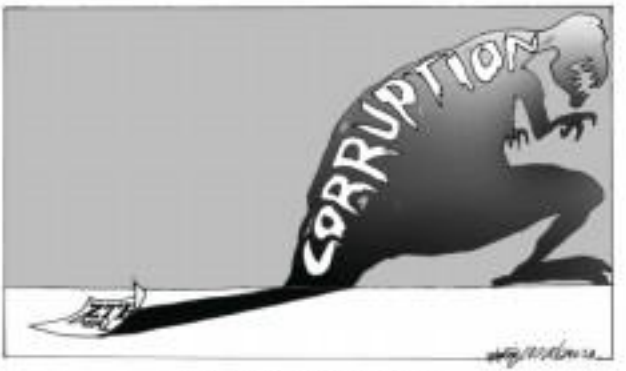

Motorcycle exclusions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I DROVE A motorcycle on the expressway. It was 1987, and the new North Diversion Road (as it was then called) was almost finished, although it had not yet officially opened. I realized then that some motorcycles are made for open highways, while others do better on city roads. The concept of "limited access highways" was new in our country.

In 2004, the Department of Public Works and Communications issued AO No. 1, which, among other things, prohibited motorcycles on limited access highways, passing them in the same league as bicycles and pedicabs. This was contrary to the practice in most countries. The ban is based on the unexamined belief that motorcycles pose a greater danger than motorcars to the free flow of traffic on expressways.

Many years have passed, and, true enough, cars are getting smaller, the new bikes that are being produced are not only getting bigger and faster, but also more stable and maneuverable. The universe that has gone into the making of these high-performance machines represents a new way of thinking. The power they put at the disposal of the rider is unimaginable in the days of the bus, which had been first staffed by Hilda James Ekstand, Richard Santiago and the Lakas Manggagawa Federation Inc.

Encouraged by this new policy I bought my first big bike, a Suzuki Intruder 800, with streamline carpentry of Kitex, my motorcycle after the ban was lifted. I've been riding almost every weekend ever since, using either the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) or the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) as access routes to the rest of the countryside.

Not something happened to the world of motorcycling that was not foreseen. Taiwan, South Korea and China entered the scene as innovative manufacturers, churning out high-performance that were being sold at incredibly low prices. This compelled the Japanese producers that had traditionally supplied the bikes for the local tricycle market to come up with motorcycles models as competitive prices.

The rise in overseas workers' remittances in the past decade greatly stimulated the demand, and the availability of easy installment schemes changed the whole configuration of the market. In an instant, this whole of events democratized motorcycling as a hobby.

Today there are more than three million registered motorcycles in the country. Organized in associations of sporting enthusiasts, they certain constitute a formidable force. I remember being approached by a fellow rider whose incredibly modified "underbone" had caught my attention, in the course of our conversation, he brought up the idea of passing up a party list group for motorcyclists. What would be our main advocacy, I asked. Well, he said, for one—the right of speed access to the expressways. Of course, he added, viewing my frown, you don't have this problem. But why be pissed off, causing my democratic credentials, should the highways be for the motorists one of the rich big fellows? the basic point.

I was going to build a case justifying this injustice lifting of the ban, but lowering the minimum engine displacement requirements to maybe 250cc. I wanted to tell him that going on full-throttle speed to keep within the speed range of expressways would subject small engines and exercise close to the risk of blow-ups. But my friend was in no mood to listen to a discourse on the concept of expressways and the necessity they embody.

I suddenly became aware that a simple distinction based on engine displacement had quietly acquired a class undertone. The big bike is no longer just a luxury item. It has become a signifier of social exclusion. The unverbalized assumption that this brands may sometimes be left to the awkward social distance that segregates big bikers from the small "underbone" riders is not quite unlike where they congregate for their Sunday rides. There is an easy camaraderie among big bikers that is symbolized by the quick friendly wave on the road, but I have to admit this is not something reasonably given to fellow riders of small bikes.

The original petition filed by Manuel, Santiago and the LMFI had insight the real material of all motorcycles from the law of retaliation to be excluded from the expressways. Ironically, it was the big bikers who became the safe friendly stories when the LTFRB amended its rules allowing motorbikes such as least 400cc displacement access to the freeways. This was the sibling tale on an open mound.

In June 2005, the Makati RTC ruled with finality against the petition. The judge insisted that the right of motorcyclists to travel is not engine displacement. The case found its way to the Supreme Court, to a fascinating decision penned by Justice Antonio Carpio not yet, the Court took an unexpected route, partially granting the petition by declaring some department orders that had been issued, but upholding the legality of the original ban against motorcycles on expressways under Administrative Order No. 1. The Court refused to be drawn into a discussion of the rational use of expressways and why motorcycles could be responsible users of those roads. Instead, in one fell swoop, it flattened all motorcycle distinctions and demonstrated supremacy exclusion.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Treated like dirt

GET REAL

Sol Iñiguez-Monsod

THE OF THE MANY ASSERTIONS GMA president Mikaela Garcia made during our conversation last week as she became debate were that: (1) the eCard Plus was voluntary—a member of government agency has to get it if he/she already had an eCard (which apparently expires only in 2008); and (2) the cash advances for discretionary expenses that he received for the period were liquidated not only by official receipts but also by other documentary requirements for official purposes, but also by receipts contained in sealed envelopes that were submitted to the GSIS' resident COA auditor.

Well, after the story of that meeting came out in last Sunday's Inquirer, I received another avalanche of comments/replies/complaints. This time, not only from active members, pensioners and their friends and relatives, but from GSIS employees themselves, as well as from Leonor Briones, the deputy who supervised the COA Special Audit Team (SAT) formed to look into the complaints lodged against the GSIS management as well as those exposed in the press.

The GSIS employees, all but one of whom identified themselves, asked that I withhold their names because of fear of reprisal. I can understand that those who dare to complain against Garcia have been mistreated one way or another. In fact, one long-time GSIS employee called me to say that they suspect that their offices are bugged, because when they complain among themselves, the complainants are always caught (shades of martial law), and ultimately get punished supposedly for some unrelated infraction. But they have provided very detailed information so clear that the problems of the GSIS are not just "glitches" but are endemic in nature, and most importantly, to show how pensioners and active members alike have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the incompetence or shortcomings of the GSIS and, by officers, Union think. They also dispute the assertion by Garcia that "the bulk of the employees borrow their only bought one-way fares, thinking that they can get their pension once they arise to the office. There was even one resident reform agreement that will be waiting in line. Section 14 says that the GSIS has already 'settled' the amount because the latter have already kept quite about the issue."

Maybe the GSIS employees who wrote this e-blog, for judging from the rest of the letter, and the wealth of detail he provides, plus his recommendations on how to make the system better for the pensioners, is in difficult to doubt his sincerity.

With regard to Garcia's second assertion—that the direct expenses expenditures were backed up by "sealed" receipts submitted to the resident COA auditor—it does not appear to stand close scrutiny. Recall that the SAT found that "liquidation of the liquidation vouchers and other disbursements of funds made by PGM Garcia were merely supported by a CERTIFICATION to the effect that the amounts have been incurred for purposes contemplated under the laws/regulations..." which is one of the reasons the SAT recommended disallowing the expenditures. The vouchers were supplied by the GSIS' COA resident auditor, GSIS having refused to cooperate with the SAT.

This is significant in that in its formal comments to the SAT finding, the GSIS did not mention anywhere that there were receipts backing up the liquidation, sealed or unsealed. The GSIS just insisted that a certification was sufficient. Moreover, it is difficult to believe that the resident COA auditor would deliberately withhold such significant evidence in the first place, or would continue to remain silent in the face of the SAT findings.

What's the bottom line? Now, many are almost has authorized that the GSIS has been treating its pensioners not as "only" VIPs. They are, but also Filipinos, to put it bluntly, non-grata people.

Measuring happiness and freedom

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Herbert Mangudadatu

[illegible] HAPPINESS CAN BE MEASURED. A PERsonal quality having recognizable degrees...such as "very happy" or "unhappy"...is certainly measurable.

The desirability of measuring something measured recall. I admit that my willingness or ability to relate is low, and I readers a need to raise it. But I am not alone in my reluctance to accept.

The conceptual and practical difficulties of measuring something are secondary. Anything important enough to warrant scientific study warrants measurement. Lack of necessary ways to measure is a challenge.

Then, in the 1960 conference on how to develop a measure of economic freedom, did professor Milton Friedman come to a conclusion of social measure as in the University of Chicago: "If you can't measure it, measure it anyway."

Happiness. 1948 did 1.4 national surveys on happiness between 1991 and 2006. The latest survey, in November 2006, found 35 percent of adult Filipinos "very happy" 45 percent "fairly happy," 14 percent "not very happy" and 3 percent "Not At All Happy."

In Tagalog we have used "[illegible] maligaya." "Maligaya" is the "understanding measure." And "[illegible] hindi maligaya." With this four-point scale, economic-level in either countries, it is natural to rate the upper two categories as the "happy" and the lower two as the "unhappy" categories.

Incidentally, the percentages (happy in some countries are: Canada 86, Singapore 85, Indonesia 84, United States 80, Northern 78, Korea 66, Philippines 60, Japan 56, and China 38, from the 2006 survey. Of course, the ranking of countries based on our goodness. Doing with our any measures compared to other countries is not as important as doing better on the same measure compared to the country.

But the issue raised for happy Filipinos is fun. The percentage happy in November 2006 was the same as the All in the very first survey in July 1991. It ranged between 55 percent in August 2000 and 69 percent in April 1998. While there seems to be 70's, 10 in the 80's, and one in the 90's, I simply observe that losing happy has not been difficult for most Filipinos.

Happiness in November 2006 was 7 points higher among ABC's compared to D's, and 9 points higher among college graduates compared to elementary/school leavers. It was 6 points higher in metropolitan Manila than in the rest of the country, and 8 points higher among college graduates compared to elementary/school leavers. It was 6 points higher in metropolitan Manila than in the rest of the country, and 8 points higher among college graduates compared to elementary/school leavers.

Happiness is perceived, not social. Happiness can neither be bequeathed to anyone, nor measured by others. It government is to be a targets, our elimination of unhappiness, but eradication of poverty. As a social issue, having not only the poor themselves but also society as a whole, poverty deserves more measurement and more determined attention.

The "pursuit of happiness" is in the American Declaration of Independence, but in vain. Our Constitution says it time, among other things, for "a just and [illegible] society," "under the blessings of independence and democracy," under the rule of law and a regime of truth, freedom, love, equality and justice." These are all reasons to refuse that hunger for measurement can, in time, be met.

Economic freedom. Last Tuesday, the Philippine edition of the 2007 Annual Report of the Economic Freedom of the World (EFW), published by the Fraser Institute (of Canada), was launched by the Foundation for Economic Freedom together with the Center for Research and Communication and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Philippines.

The 2007 EFW Report is dedicated to the memory of Milton Friedman, author of "How to Choose," who inspired the economic freedom project and was involved in it until his death last November. I had the privilege of being his student in Chicago in 1968-72.

Milton Friedman: "For many of us, freedom economic, political, civil...is an end in itself, not a means to other ends. It is what makes life worth living. It is what [illegible] better than free societies have more and persistent rates because economic freedom is so much more prevalent than other methods of controlling economic activity."

The key ingredients of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, freedom to compete, and the protection of persons and property. On the national the measures in the report are a quite good but not perfect. Unfortunately, the decadal gap have more aspects of economic freedom in the Philippines.

On a scale of 0 to 10, the new Philippine value (2005) of the Economic Freedom Index is 6.6, and for 146 among 141 countries. The top scores were Hong Kong (8.9) and the bottom scores, Zimbabwe (3.5). The Philippine index was average 7.1 in 1995 and 2000, but, unfortunately, declined to 6.6 in 2005 and 2006.

For scope of the Philippine edition of the 2007 EFW Report, write the Foundation for Economic Freedom through Kim Cain at kcain@fedphilippines.org or the Friedrich Naumann Foundation at [illegible]@fnfphilippines.org. All data in the report, as well as data omitted for lack of space, are freely downloadable at www.freedomworld.net.

Contact [illegible]: www.mcs.org.ph or mangudadatu@yahoo.org.ph.

Mentoring the Mentors: the Bukidnon experience

COMMENTARY

Edsel C. Ombay, Ph.D.

[illegible] SEC. GLORIA MIRASOL THE DYNAMIC DEPARTment of Education schools division superintendent of Bukidnon has this wonderful personal motto: "Make a difference."

Bringing out I met by chance in the summer of 2006. She told me then that she was looking for a program "that would empower at her 300 school administrators." As the Presidential for World-wide People Bureau's regional coordinator for [illegible] Program (MMP), she finalized arrangements, and there it was off to Bukidnon.

Dr. Fe Mojillano, the MMP national coordinator, assembled a team of master educators to run the program. Dr. Mojillano is a Ph.D. holder from Dr. Celia Iskandar and Dr. Sol Francisco from the university of the Philippines and Ateneo Diliman. Iskandar is the MMP assistant vice president for academic affairs. Francisco is the former director of Ateneo Learning, while Francisco holds a doctorate in language teaching. Deguito is a principal from Dapitan Public.

The Bukidnon sessions ended with a communique and quality education from the school administrators.

Last May, Sengco invited me back to Bukidnon to see how her administrators were faring. This time, I was accompanied by Dr. Ma. Fe Mojillano, the Manuel program director, wanted to know if the seeds of education reform that we had sown were beginning to bear fruit. An extensive visit was my client's invited.

Before the mentoring stage, this included focused group discussions and school visits, we arrived in Malaybalay on Aug. 3. We were joined by [illegible] personnel Dr. Idaria "Bambo" Lim Apuyan.

The mentoring was conducted in Malaybalay, starting with the office of the superintendent. Consultation of a two-story training center was almost finished, with computer-equipped staff rotation ready for use.

We divided the administrators into five [illegible] groups, each facilitated by a member of the MMP [illegible] ing Team.

The good news are found from every focus group was the consensus that there significant improvements in their [illegible] achievement. Test aggregate mean percentage scores compared to last year. Some schools even were divided and reported [illegible] achievement.

The focus group data that validated the learning they saw in the course of their drive toward education quality and how they attempted to surmount these. Almost all the administrators faced [illegible] behavior issues ranging from negative attitude, harassment to absenteeism, misbehavior, tardiness, absenteeism and the like.

The administrators said the MMP interactive modules on [illegible] Change Create popularly known as "Kambal sa Pantalon"), Building Intrapersonal Strength [illegible] Interpersonal Skills and Servant Leadership greatly helped them address these misbehaviors.

On the second day we visited schools to see for ourselves if Mentoring the Mentors indeed had substance on a task level. Dr. Gina Alfonso was with us when we went to Balungao, Dumpang and Ilaliyan elementary schools and Bangcud Integrated School. We saw [illegible] principals, while she visited the classrooms and talked with the teachers individually.

The principals' warmth to us was evidently genuine. Bangcud National High School's principal, Dr. Angelo Ramos, has subsequently been awarded Instructional leadership. In fact, she was named Most Outstanding Principal of the District of Baungon for SY 2006-2008.

Noel Tan Mary of Kalasungay, Baungon Division of Dumpang and Virginia Ramos of Ilaliyan were newly assigned principals. They talked of how difficult it was, at first, to deal with the teachers, but with the fresh approaches they discovered through Mentoring the Mentors, they succeeded in galvanizing their teachers' efforts toward consistent and sustained quality excellence.

Sibonoon showed dramatic turnout. I can put initially down to the fact that Dumpang Elementary School badly needed a facelift in the very little because of its [illegible] condition. In its unfinished building last summer. But empowered with a newfound vision, laborers got the workers, pupils and community working together, and as one, they transformed the moldover, [illegible] school into a thing of beauty. For the Most Outstanding Child Friendly School in Mindanao City for 2007.

Similar stories: Ilaliyan Elementary School [illegible] school. It participated in last year's MMP-TC process this year. Its divinely workforce that was new to Ailleen's discussion on Active Teaching and Learning Strategies. Its organized activities new Reading Learning Program for the parents of incoming [illegible] Its [illegible] Its parents' role as successful duo this school year, all Grade 1 pupils already know how to read.

In his book "Make it To Be Not a Living," Dr. Ramon Bautista says that "[illegible] people [illegible] plus true will enable an individual to be truly successful and to make his life full. One of these is, "achieve personal significance." What you see about yourself is what you will be. To recognize your significance, you must believe that you are special. To appreciate your significance, you need to understand that you can make a difference.

Gloria Sengco and her administrators have truly made a difference in the lives of all school children in Bukidnon.

Dr. Edsel C. Ombay recently retired as Baguio schools division superintendent of Benguet City. The views contained in the PAFPFI's Mentoring the Mentors Program in Bukidnon.

Mikey's alleged degree; the PNP race

BETWEEN DEADLINES

NOT ON OUR LIST, PERHAPS: [illegible] BIR Chronicle Training was misinformed? Several weeks ago, he defended the House majority's choice of the President's cabinet son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, as chair of the important committee on energy. "We believe that he is competent, responsible and honest ... He's qualified for the job." And then he cited Mikey's diploma degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley as a badge of competence.

The Filipino in California decided to do some checking. She shared the results of her research in two e-mails, which eventually found their way to this writer. "I called the Haas Business School ... to confirm to verify his MBA and spoke to an admissions secretary named Sandy Chavez ... She can't find anyone named Juan Miguel Arroyo or Juan attended this school. I don't have a class year for him. I'm still checking with her because maybe his name here was Hispanized," she wrote in the first one.

Several hours later, our intrepid correspondent wrote again. She spoke with Sandy ... at the [illegible] Haas School of Business and she doesn't have any record of Arroyo in the entire class [illegible] 1990-91 nor Miguel Mariappan. I asked about the possibility of the graduate diploma not being applicable to an MBA but she just doesn't have statistics for those years in the Business School."

Mr. Business-minded. *J. Ayco*

* * *

HOLE SEPTODAL IS DOMINION. After the election of the new officers of the Dasol Regional Police and Order Council, the council's elected chair, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, asked representatives of government agencies and the private sector if they had any problems or concerns to raise.

Col. Sudaresan of the 901st Brigade of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Brigade based in Fort Heritage, Daraga, Albay, said the local one. He said some local government units in the area seem to underestimate that this post is an important role in the fight against the insurgency or, worse, that they are a part of government. He mentioned one [illegible] mayor in [illegible] who complained about being always targeted by the [illegible] the Armed Forces and the New People's Army.

The brigade commander, whose area of responsibility is Albay and Sorsogon, recalled telling the local chief executive: "Sir, maybe we [illegible] you are part of the problem because big problem now is insurgency and there's no [illegible] a big role in fighting the rebels? We are just your partners...[illegible]." *E. Aguilar*

* * *

THERE'S A RACE? Surprisingly, the race to replace Director General Oscar Calderon as chief, PNP has been a civil affair, quite unlike the bitter contests of the past.

Cool, except for an incident several months ago. According to some officers in Camp Crame, one opposition official (she's not him to make it sold to step up and convince Mahamba to choose his candidate by his own political [illegible] Cabinet men). It happened when Ople and even suggested that Calderon be reinstated.

The briefing about his death's there, however, the other candidates don't call it him. It's made his own calls and [illegible] and, according to sources, told the President that he was working assiduously to take hold of the PNP's reins.

Many days, the other officers, classmates in the Philippine Military Academy, have been watching a cold. Serious mind has yet to be flung, for now at least.

Incidentally, a senior officer told the bureau there was a possibility a dark horse could emerge and succeed Calderon. "For as long as the successor of General Calderon is not serving in the chain of the dead, PNP no one is assured of victory." *A. Pepe*

* * *

MCS'S LATEST BEST CALL. After last month's National Security Council meeting, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. delivered a privilege speech (the second since the 14th Congress opened). Issued: In part) on the brief ing he heard at the NSC meeting. Pimentel remarked he was somewhat surprised to be invited in that morning's meeting, and said, it was his first time to step foot in Malacañang since his falling out with President Macapagal-Arroyo some years ago.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri promptly interpellated Pimentel. The former Bukidnon congressman, closely identified with the administration, said he was "pleasantly surprised" to see Pimentel at the NSC meeting since the agenda concerned Mindanao. "However I was just informed this morning," Zubiri said, exuding self-confidence. *By Mandalagan*

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Sept. 2, 1997 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

The [illegible] has again suffered a setback in the aftermath of the bloody attempt against Jun Aug. 26, 1997, by the rebellious Honasan bros. On the same day that guns were being fired against innocent civilians, three ideologically opposed leftist groups—the pro-Soviet Partido ng Bayan (Party), Bonifacio Nepomuceno or [illegible] Bonifacio and Bolshevik as translated by Bolshevik Ng—Gawa Bisig)—met to discuss unified measures of action against recent retaliatory violence.

While the [illegible] condemned the [illegible] of those ideological adversaries common to the leftist movement, Bayan firmly refused to give all out support to the beleaguered Aquino government which is accused of having [illegible] the Honasan [illegible] Bonifacio insisted on giving President Cory the mass movement's unconditional support. Bisig opted for conditional support, that is, encouraging the government's [illegible] policies and condemning its [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were committed but [illegible] [illegible] it is supreme over the military. We should keep on [illegible] to crush our Bonifacio allies.

Days of gloom

I GREW UP IN A SMALL TOWN AS A TYPICAL ADVENTUROUS KID. There was almost nothing I was afraid of—of heights, fire, the sea of [illegible] darkness, strangers, lightning or thunder, and definitely not explosions.

In fact, I was fascinated by explosions. My eyes used to open wider at the sight of the late Ernie Baron pointing to a big beam of something already moving [illegible] somewhere. And when the [illegible] phoon finally struck at our place, I enjoyed watching the trees swaying from side. The joyous movement of those trees against the [illegible] wind reminded me of the graceful routines of gymnasts deserving of a perfect 10 rating. That was [illegible], I repeated over announcements on the chance it were suspended.

My memories of my childhood include my experiments with such deadly explosives as "Sentrong" and "Boxing" which, quite a [illegible] Quezon Province where I grew up, "Sentrong" caused an audible [illegible] sound in many of our classrooms, a term big dread in the province [illegible] I intended. "Boxing" ripped off my neighbor's roof and I saw it fly over my own house. Both explosives brought [illegible] which into our home. They also rendered the place unliving a fun to stay in but the results [illegible]. It is weren't for the lack of concrete and the [illegible] such as [illegible] explosive days would have been [illegible] for me.

Years after "Sentrong" and "Boxing" struck, I moved to the big city for my higher education. Both physically and mentally, I am much different from the adventurous little kid who lived in the province. I have become more aware of the dangers lurking in the world and how they affect me and the people around me. I still am one of the naive things, but I have learned to respect nature and its awesome forces.

Late in September, supertyphoon "Milenyo" struck the country. The swollen ranges of the supertyphoon still held a devastating force by the time it reached Metro Manila. I hardly understood why my parents were not exactly pleased when they were kept cheered as soon as they heard that classes were being cancelled because of the weather. Now I realize that with a typhoon coming, more things will be less than pleased. To feel happy over the cancellation of classes while knowing that the arrival of hectares upon hectares of rice fields will be flattened doesn't make sense to me now. I am not sleep soundly in my bed while the winds are still blowing the fields are worried only phone their crops. I can almost feel their pain when months of planning and tending their farms inside the wind that can destroy in seconds as their crops take many dead weeks [illegible] of mind.

I saw these things back home when I was still young and innocent, but it is only now that I have come to understand what those images really mean to the farmers.

To think that many of my relatives rise in farming, for us crops to cause a family that has a history class told me that my grandparents, learn on my father's and my mother's side, were dependent on farming. What bad weather means to them were incomprehensible to a kid, but I think I know better now.

I never respect typhoons. I can't help regard with awe their destructive power and strength and what they can do to me and to every one. My homework was lucky so far spared the disaster that happened in Infanta and Real. Watching documentaries and TV specials of the aftermath forced me to ask questions like "What happened to the people affected by typhoons?" and "What is their future?" I would pray that the typhoons spare our house, now I include my hometown and the rice country in my prayers.

I had just learned to say this prayer for two months, when "Sentrong" came. I was overcome with fear when weather forecasters said that the typhoon will hit every region. It's not a kid anymore, and I knew what to expect from such a powerful supertyphoon.

Ten apparently my college friends didn't. The official announcement that classes were being called off and the anticipation of having a long weekend brought smiles to their faces. I suppose deep in themselves they remain children who love the thrills of the gloomy typhoon days and enjoy days off from school.

Kenneth P. Fernandez, 20, is a 3rd year BS Architecture engineering student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@philstar.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course or work you're affiliated with. Please indicate if your article is holiday and title campaign you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

YOUNG BLOOD

Kenneth P. Fernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the newspaper reading and [illegible]. Ed.

IN THE NEWS

Romulo Neri

Can't AFP tell enemy casualties?

AS A FIRED-UP SEA HAWK HOAR-ded skipper leave their coast families, the beach filled upon reaching that 13 since Malaysia died in March against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. (Inquirer, 8/16/07) I sympathize with the fathers of these slain soldiers, losing as they were in their defense of freedom, democracy and their loved ones.

But with almost 11 soldiers killed in a little more than a month of fighting overseas, I smell something wrong in the chain of command. I can't believe that, up to the present, AFP officials cannot determine how many of the enemies have been killed in battle in the past two months. They can only estimate.

To quote former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz in his dog, 10 soldiers dead, "The feeble Armed Forces of the Philippines". "They are exhibiting the proud virtues of patriotism and gallantry that Rizal and his comrades in the ranks of the revered, Hermenigildo Diocsan and his fellow guerrillas during the Japanese Occupation, Nitoy Aquino and his peace who resisted the Marcos dictatorship, and the numerous ordinary soldiers fighting in the bloody barricades of war against the despotism of our land, unselfishly offered as their heroic ultimate against tyranny for the love of people to consecrate and freedom."

(Inquirer, 8/19/07) I agree with his observation.

There is an urgent need to determine the absolute death of terrorists in order to weed out those who may have already suffered their usefulness. It's high time that we gave the "wrong Turks" or insurrectionists the chance to surrender without continued expensive killing, a principle still break in their minds. It could see me that an all out war is a very necessary evil—we broke into the military pay a big slice of your money (P1.15-trillion national budget, which is soon to be dedicated to the 14th Congress!

—EDGARDO G. PUZON SR., Jr Road Estate, Barangay Cannonbagan, Sta., Cauayan, Isabela 3305

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Grateful for news on Sibuyan mining

I WAS VERY GLAD TO SEE THAT the controversy over the mining operations in Sibuyan was given space in the Inqs. I must of this issue. (Group warns targa-scale mining banned from Sibuyan island").

I hope this will help stop mining which only serves to be powered in terms of multi-billion tube ton and abuse their power and influence to get what they want.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Inquirer. I hope and environmental concerns will be heard and attended to by the government.

—CLEOFE AUSTRIA, marbeth997@ymail.com

Violence in a field of lofty ideals

[illegible] continue to be [illegible] detained by what is widely perceived as ill-humanity-related motives. Another life has been snuffed out by road clubbing as he mentions, yet suffering pain like beaten. Another life has been sacrificed, killed by a senseless road duo degrades humanity.

It is ironic that our citizenship of the Philippines, hailed as the country's first educational institution, aim for the same place where the nation's best hopes and, the same place that breeds students who inflict pain on—at times, even kill—their fellows, all in the name of brotherhood.

It is absurd that [illegible] men are commented there, side by side with the unsuspecting, the innocent—to abstraction that conjure our comprehension. Worse of all, it is the same place where, after the indignation and the din of protest fade, "it-as-usual mode" become another cauldron for the cross cycle of campus violence, and farquhetisms and ridiculous replace courage, and mindless violence kills.

We are one with Ciu Antonio Mendoza's family in their grief. Ciu' death is not just mere loss; it is also pain, his fellow laborers pain as Ateneo and members of the UP community. His death is also pain as Filipinos, every Filipino who is killed, is a country's loss.

Yet now not to forget, we must to seek justice. The UP administration and the country's police authorities must not rest until those behind Ciu' senseless death pay for their crime, more importantly, we must see to it our indignation turn into relevance. Ciu' death be not lost.

—MICHAEL IGNACIO LOPEZ, VICTOR POTENCIANO, UP Ateneo Iglesya Ning Lahi and para sa Pagkaisang Carabao at Kasulinan, up.ateneo@gmail.com

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Pall Mall didn't get special favor—DOF

[illegible] I RESPECTFULLY REFER TO A grossly erroneous column. I specifically refer to Conrado Banal III's column on the ruling of the Department of Finance on the tax classification of the locally manufactured Pall Mall cigarettes. The information that certain edit. must have acted in a way that benefits a particular manufacturers is only off the mark, and the allegation is grossly unfair to government executives working hard to make things right.

Let me be specific. Firstly, Banal stated that the government "does everything, including issuing the rules, to give this vice merchant BIR incentive tax breaks." The DOF simply applied the law to the established facts. The Bureau of Internal Revenue itself conducted a price survey on Dec. 22, 2006, which resulted in a finding that the applicable excise tax rate is P6.35 (now P6.74) per pack. This price survey is required both by law and by BIR regulations. The DOF ruling speaks for itself.

Secondly, Banal stated that a finance undersecretary reduced the Pall Mall excise tax from P6 to P6.26 per pack, and that he is the same finance undersecretary who initially pegged the proper excise tax rate the BIR used on Pall Mall. This misleads. The legal fact is that the reduction was dictated by the outcome of the BIR price survey mentioned in the above-cited Sec. 145 of the Tax Code precisely to determine the tax classification of the local Pall Mall brands. With the results of the price survey, the BIR could not have claimed short of dereliction of duty to use any rate other than the rate in force initially pegged by the DOF or by any finance undersecretary.

Thirdly, Banal asserted that the "Bill was kept in the dark all the time." This is a deliberate lie. The Bill was "never kept in the dark."

• The Bill participated in the deliberations with the DOF that resulted in the Bill for a price survey on Dec. 15, 2006 to resolve the tax classification issue.

• The Bill conducted the price survey as mandated by law, the outcome of which determined the proper excise tax rate, because the Bill itself, through then Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, issued the ruling on Bill Bill's tax classification and maintained in the DOF the records of the case for a review of his ruling.

• It was the former Bill commissioner himself who informed the DOF in an official letter dated June 13, 2007, of the official results of the Dec. 22, 2006 survey, six months after it was done, after having failed to even mention it in his appealed ruling of Feb. 22, 2007.

Finally, Banal alleged that the DOF ruling "is still a secret." This is not true. The ruling is a public and official document. It is easy to access from many sources including the Internet and still is the object of his deeply misinformed negotiations.

In sum, the matter could have been clarified early on, had Banal only bothered to check facts by contacting this department for additional information, data and figures.

—GAUDENCIO A. MENDOZA JR., undersecretary, Legal and Investment Operations Group, Department of Finance, Manila

• • •

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARTICLE OF Rolando V. Tolentino (for Pall Mall case [Inquirer.net, 9/5/07], I wish to categorically state for the record that I never recommended a lower tax for Pall Mall. The letter of June 12, 2007, which Finance Secretary Margarito Teves was referring to, was a factual report on the survey conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue per instructions of the Department of Finance[,] which I merely transmitted as a recommendation. The letter was in response to the DOF's request for a factual report on the survey.

The BIR's position was a survey was necessary in the first place and could not proceed over the much higher selling price in the Duty Free Shop where the tax of P35 per pack was being paid. Under the circumstances, even if the survey indicated a lower tax, the higher tax should continue to be collected because a downward classification was prohibited by law.

I am sending this rejoinder for the clarification of all concerned and to the public.

—JOSE MARIO C. BUÑAG, former commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue

Across the NATION

Govs want barangay polls postponed

By Carlo P Gustina and Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRY'S governors favored the postponement of the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said that an informal vote taken during a meeting of the League of Provinces of the Philippines in Manila Thursday, however, showed that most governors want the two elections moved from Oct. 29 this year to May next year, not in May 2009 as proposed by a consolidated bill approved by the Lower House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

But while the governors wanted the elections held next year, it was more likely they would be held in October since there was not enough time to change the schedule, he said.

The Leyte provincial board also supported the postponement because of the huge cost of holding the two elections, estimated at P3 billion.

Provincial board member Eustaquio Alfeso, provincial president of Leyte's Association of Barangay Chairmen, said it would not be financially wise to conduct two elections in the same year, with the next term elections just held in May.

Leyte Vice Gov. Mimiette Bagtasbas also favored the postponement. "Let us give our people a respite from the elections fever," she said.

The Commission on Elections has issued Resolution No. 8261 recommending the calendar of activities in relation to the Oct. 29 elections, which among others, declared that the election period would start on Sept. 29 and end on Nov. 11.

The filing of certificates of candidacy begins on Oct. 11 up to Oct. 19. The campaign period starts on Oct. 20 and to end on Oct. 27.

A Comelec official in Leyte said the provincial board's resolution was "timed rather" in the Comelec, which has spent money for the latest voters' registration.

"They should have passed this resolution, as well as that bill approved by the House of Representatives before we conducted registrations for new voters," the official who asked not to be named said.

The official noted that the barangay and SK polls have already been postponed twice. The last time the country held the barangay elections was on July 15, 2002. The winners were supposed to step down in 2005 but the election that year was reset to this year due to budgetary constraints.

In Davao City Gabriela Rep. Luz Ilagan on Thursday warned that postponing the barangay elections to 2009 would be tantamount to disenfranchising millions of voters while allowing corrupt officials to extend their time in power.

"Postponing the elections for almost two years is tantamount to disenfranchising millions of voters. This denies them their right to replace erring barangay officials through an electoral exercise and 'trivializes' the barangay elections," she said.

Ilagan, who refused to sign the report of the House committee on suffrage on the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, said she also wanted to know who would really benefit from the postponement. With a report from Jeffrey M. Tupas, Mindanao Bureau

PEOPLE POWER Not even a giant bulldozer can stop these tribal men and women in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya from showing their strong opposition to the entry of a foreign mining in their community. They sit in the middle of the mountain road, stopping the machine on its path. Mining operations in the area were met with stiff resistance that was supported by the Church. more local news on page A14

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Roundup

4 killed in Cagayan ambush

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A businessman and three of his family members were killed when they were ambushed by armed men in Solana, Cagayan, on Aug. 27.

Cagayan police director Senior Supt. Pedro Bataguilan said Nicolas Bandoth, 54, and his family members were aboard a van and on their way home at 8:30 a.m. when the suspects, armed with Armalite rifles, attacked them in Barangay Pag-asa in Solana. Bandoth, his wife Cecilia, his son Alex, 17, and his cousin Melanie Obido were instantly killed.

Bataguilan said the police have filed murder charges against five suspects, whom he declined to identify.

Filemon Pimpan Jr. and Aimeriden Calder, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Old man found dead

ANGADIO, Davao del Sur—An old man, who was believed to have been swept by flood waters, was found dead beside the Lubig River here on Aug. 27.

Security guards of the Davao Oriental Joint Venture found the man's body around 6 a.m. according to PO2 Gil Nadal, investigator of the Barangay police.

Nadal said they were watching if the victim, estimated to be over 70 years old, was the same man reported missing at the height of the flash flood that hit Malalag town last week. **Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao**

Medical service

DIGOS CITY—At least 200 villagers of Matilo, Davao del Sur availed themselves of free services for prostate problems and kidney problems during a medical mission on Saturday.

The mission was carried out by the Philippine Urological Association, which was celebrating its 50th foundation anniversary. The PUA brought to 14 urologists to examine the villagers.

Dr. Alvin Cabreros, PUA prostate committee chair, said their group has been converting free examination and surgical services around the country for the past two years. **Ellie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao**

Couple robbed of P170,000

DIGOS CITY—Robbers took P170,000 in cash from a couple, who had just withdrawn money from a bank on Aug. 27.

Couple Casimiro Delfor and Nicanora of Padada, Davao del Sur, were walking along Ricardo Dalla Street here after withdrawing P170,000 from the Philippine National Bank when two armed men, who were riding a motorcycle, suddenly blocked their path.

One of the suspects fired a warning shot when the couple tried to resist. **Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao**

Motorcycle thief nabbed

MALITA, Davao del Sur—Police here arrested a suspected thief and recovered a stolen motorcycle from his possession.

Senior Insp. Ramonito Tayuan, Malita police chief, said they received reports that a stolen motorcycle from Davao City was brought here and was being used as "habal-habal" (single passenger motorcycle for hire).

He said on Aug. 26, they launched an operation and spotted the motorcycle in the possession of Glen Mella Arafiac, 21.

Arafiac initially denied he was the police had to wait later caught, Tayuan said.

The motorcycle was seized from Arafiac was a Kawasaki Bore belonging to a resident of Davao City.

Tayuan said they learned that Arafiac' brothers-in-law, Erwin Cawada, 23, stole the motorcycle in Davao City but later studied. Cawada is now being hunted down. **Ellie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao**

4 more WWII bombs found in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three days after eight vintage bombs were unearthed from a construction site inside a school in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, four other World War II bombs were discovered in a residential area along a national highway in Alaminos town on Thursday, police said Friday.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Laguna police director, said personnel of the Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Laguna police initially retrieved two 1,500-pound aerial bombs from a private property in Barangay 3, Alaminos.

He said before the discovery of the eight bombs, a resident called the local police station at around 11 a.m. and asked their assistance after he noticed black smoke coming from the ground where a house is being constructed.

Rojas said it was still unclear if the supposed black smoke came from one of the bombs.

He, however, said that if look-right boots before the bomb experts safely removed the vintage explosives from the site. **Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon**

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INQUIRER Visayas

Edna Jan Bontuyan
Bureau Chief (Antique, Boracay)

'Folk school' helps kids read better

By Carla P Gomez
Reported Chief

A NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL has helped thousands of public school pupils regain self-esteem and confidence through improved reading skills.

The Bakwitahan sang Katarungan Pangguyan (Tahan), known as Folk School of Negros Occidental, has been helping pupils in 500 public elementary schools in the Division of Negros Occidental.

Sugar Regulatory Administration chief Rafael Lizada-Ibarra, Tahan board chair and managing trustee, said their work is now also being replicated by some local governments in Iloilo, Surigao del Sur and Maguindanao.

The key to Tahan's success is getting school officials, pupils, parents, barangay officials, local governments and local firms involved to improving education in their areas, he said.

Lizada-Ibarra said that when they started Tahan, six pupils shared one book.

Tahan decided to tap local Depkid scholars to produce the workbooks to improve pupils' reading skills, he said.

That is because reading triggers everything else—it gives them the self-esteem and confidence to learn more in other subjects as well, he said.

Lizada-Ibarra said Tahan, which began in 2000 with a grant from Red Foundation, has produced homegrown for Grades 3 to 6 teachers and workbooks to improve pupils' reading skills that are being used in public schools in the province.

Last Jan. 16, Tahan turned over workbooks and lesson plans for Grades 5 and 6 pupils to the Schools Division of Negros Occidental.

The latest workbooks and lesson plans, authored by teachers in Negros Occidental, were produced with funds from the US Embassy's Democracy Small Grants Program, Lizada-Ibarra said.

The instructional materials are designed to improve skills in teaching English and to ensure that Grades 5 and 6 pupils have workbooks to enhance or speed up the learning process, he said.

Lizada-Ibarra said many LGUs have already purchased the instructional materials they have produced for Grades 1 to 4 to be made available in the public schools.

In some cases barangay funds or items in the locality have been tapped to fund the workbooks for pupils, he said.

"We have reports that indicate varying levels of improvement in English and other subjects," he said.

"In some cases where mayors have been actively involved, improvements in achievement tests have been dramatic," he said.

Tahan project officer Edwin Mackinday said Depkid figures showed that in Negros Occidental like other school divisions in the country, there had been a downward in quality of reading when Tahan began its work in 2000.

In fact, he said, the 2002 Division Achievement Test showed low Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) in English and three other areas.

Average MPS of pupils in English in all grade levels was at 49.08 percent, and 6 percent of the pupils' population were non-readers, Mackinday said.

Reading disability

Former Negros Occidental Division Schools Superintendent Dr. Emelyn Cuevas warned that if children were allowed to remain poor readers the consequences would be grave and far-reaching.

With reading disabilities, she said, children would learn poorly in other subjects as one, find difficulty in all future schooling, and eventually drop out.

She also said inability to read would erode the pupil's self-esteem and self-confidence, thereby resulting in greater learning disabilities, that would lead to their being sub-literates until their adult life.

CDSCOLUMN.A

Nacionales said a closer investigation of the reading problems showed that teachers faced with 50 students per class were unable to give special attention to slow learners.

In fact-finding and hunt-in-each areas, he said, a single teacher handles six subjects a day, preventing time for individualized attention to pupils.

A survey by the division office then also showed that 45 percent of the teachers needed skills training, Nacionales said.

Many teachers lacked knowledge to using various teaching strategies and were unable to create a stimulating, non-threatening and affectionate classroom atmosphere, he added.

Also noted was the poor health and nutrition of the students and inadequate parental support, he said.

After analyzing the problem, Nacionales and Ibarra focused on reading intervention.

"The belief was, if a child knows how to read, he would be able to solve problems in math and interpret statements in science," he said.

So Ibarra designed the intervention toward building capabilities of the school, the local government and the communities for educational reform and empowerment, he said.

The included tapping Depkid reading scholars from the Division of Negros Occidental to development worthwhile materials like workbooks and teacher manuals.

Every pupil in target schools were then provided with workbooks and a textbook in English while the teachers were given teachers manuals, he said.

Better comprehension

Periodic assessments were conducted to check on the improvement of the pupils, he added.

The first year of the program covered 60 schools.

All Grade 1 pupils were provided with workbooks, textbooks and their teachers with 10-day training.

A para-teacher was hired in every school to provide remedial classes to non and slow readers.

Comparative MPS in English of schools in Talisay, San Enrique, Ilog, Hinigaran, Murcia, La Castellana and Moises Padilla initially covered by Tahan after a year of program implementation showed an increase of 8.4 percent, Nacionales said.

Since school year 2002-2003, he said Ibarra have been an average increase of 4 points in English MPS of Grade 1 pupils, and 6 points for Grade 2.

The intervention for Grade III resulted in an increase of 11 points, he said.

Among the workbooks for pupils and materials he teachers Tahan has produced are "Let's Read and Think," "Let's Read and Write" and "Let's Think and Express" for Grade 1, "Let's Read and Grow," "Let's Read and Know," "Let's Read and Discover" and "Let's Read, Understand and Enjoy" for Grade 2; "Pathways to Language and Reading" for Grade 3, "English This Way" for Grade 4, "English Made Easy" for Grade 5 and "Gateway to Effective Communication" for Grade 6.

PIETA
A man carries a dead dolphin out of the waters of Pagbarta in Cainta City, Rizal. Fishermen saw the dolphin after hours earlier

Japan adds voice to clamor for RP, MILF to talk peace

COTABATO CITY—CALLS FOR the resumption of the stalled peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) continue to grow louder.

On Wednesday, a ranking Japanese official also urged Malacañang to resume talking peace with the rebels.

Yasuo Takakusagi, political affairs minister of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, made the call after a meeting with MILF chief Murad Ebrahim in Sultan Kudarat, Shariff Kabunsuan.

Takakusagi told Murad and other MILF leaders that, like Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also very concerned about the progress of the peace process between the government and MILF.

"Japan will extend substantial help for the progress of the peace process," Takakusagi said.

In sitting his appeal, Nakusagi said the good teamwork and meticulous accomplishments brought about by the councilor across borders and the process is leading to something good for the people of Mindanao.

Earlier, US officials also raised the same appeal.

Recently, business organizations have also asked the government and the MILF to resume the negotiations so that Mindanao could already move forward.

Undersecretary Virgilio Leonardo, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), admitted that the lack of peace in some parts of the island has hindered business and development for so long already.

During the two-day business conference in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao held from Sept. 4, business leaders said there should be a concerted effort so that peace would finally be achieved in Mindanao. *Edwin Fernandez and Ruth R. Macalena, Inquirer Mindanao*

Basilan, Sulu folk distrust Army, say groups

COTABATO CITY—DISPLACED Christian and Muslim residents of Southern Mindanao said the military was not effectively subduing the war on terror because of the lack of trust and cooperation from civilians.

In a statement e-mailed to the Inquirer, the displaced residents and civilians, who could possibly soon become the survivors of the campaign, were "scared of the military."

Sr. Lucia Anila, of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, yesterday said the statement stemmed from a recent peace summit in Jolo, Sulu.

Instead of viewing soldiers as saviors, residents view them as the cause of their agony, the statement added.

Civilian casualties

They cited the rising number of civilian casualties and dislocations because of the military campaign.

These incidents, they said, have created a feeling among civilians that they were also being targeted.

"We challenge the AFP and the national leadership to prove that they are for peace," the statement said.

The statement, signed by about 40 residents, also urged the military to resort efforts in building trust among the civilian population.

"Right now, the civilians, especially those [living] in the remote areas are scared of the military," they said.

Precision

They also urged the military to conduct its operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits with "precision with no civilian casualties."

"We are tired of disruption to our livelihood. We want peace for the sake of our children. We are tired of hearing so many deadlines and endless ultimatums for many years now," the statement read.

Julianito Abas, area manager of the United Nations Inc for Peace in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said residents who attended the summit also demanded a review of the Sept. 2, 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Despite the agreement, the military and the MNLF in Sulu had repeatedly clashed.

Abas said an MNLF representative in unveiling the summit had proposed the creation of a body to oversee implementation of the peace pact.

The body's mandate should be legislated by Congress, he said.

Undersecretary Virgilio Leonardo of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), an economic agency under the Office of the President, said the military operations in the provinces would not be considered a war.

Surgical operation

"You can not call that a war, but of course, we can not avoid that some of them (civilians) might become the collateral damage," Leonardo said.

Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin also said what was taking place in his province was a mere "surgical operation" and not a major military offensive.

But like the residents, he said he was sure that the operation would not take long to complete.

Residents of a remote village in Malabila, North Cotabato fled on Wednesday when mortar shells fired during a five-day fire fight, said, dizzy landed on three villages.

Some of the shells were landed on the house of Datu Mamalo Hayon, a farmer and resident of Sitio Quarry in Sinkaneban Village.

She said some of the shells exploded near her house, destroying its roof and the family's belongings. *Noel Mendoza and Joseph Hilotero, Inquirer Mindanao*

Baguio execs working on returning scent of pine to the city

BAGUIO CITY—CITY OFFICIALS vowed to restore the pine-scent Baguio, which the country's summer capital is famous for, when it celebrates its centennial in 2009.

They would achieve this by planting a million trees to regreen Baguio, according to Mayor Bernard Rodriguez, chair of the Baguio Centennial Commission.

"We want to preserve the greenbelt as a summer capital. We always want to keep the city clean, green, peaceful, and a family vacation-oriented area," Rodriguez said in a press forum here on Wednesday.

Overcrowded

The deforestation, he said, was caused by illegal logging, overpopulation and squatting.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways have promised to plant a million trees.

The DENR in the Cordillera is expected to plant 500,000 seedlings this rainy season, it also diverted the local foresters to start planting in vacant areas to increase the forest cover.

But Mildred Pooray, member of the centennial commission, said Baguio has more trees now than in the 1960s. He said the deforestation is in areas outside the city like those along Kennon Road.

Squatting

Rodriguez said the commission and the government agencies would focus on planting more trees in the eight watersheds where a big number of trees had been destroyed due to squatting.

"Aside from the shrinkage watersheds, we are also losing live other water supplies in Dagupan and also Benguet. We want to make sure that these areas are kept free from the squatters," he said.

In Pampanga, "green alumni" or discussions on environmental issues and protection efforts are being pursued by Central Luzon's more than 3,000 elementary and high schools starting this month.

The environmental education program came after the DENR and the Department of Education signed a memorandum of agreement for that joint effort.

Numbers game

DENR Regional Executive Director Reguilar de Leon said the new government agencies could reach out to 1.7 million students and draw them into the pro-environment movement.

"If the environmental schools were a numbers game, we could say we would have on the dynamics of ecosystems. If they live near rivers or seas, it would be coastal resource management. If they live in urban areas, it would be on solid waste management and air pollution efforts," De Leon said.

Materials

Students would be drawn ways on how, as individuals or groups, they could contribute to environmental protection and benefit from it, he said.

Perla Gilbalo, DENR regional public affairs chief, is overseeing the development of information materials, mostly pamphlets and video documentaries, on biodiversity conservation, solid waste management, climate change, ozone layer, clean air and water, forest protection, and other ecological and environmental concerns. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Rondis Ordoñez, Inquirer Central Luzon*

CRIME SCENE. Work crews have worked against the clock to build this recreation of a mall, and have been oblivious to the controversy stranding the dust of the pine trees in front of the project. *PHOTO BY THEO MARQUEZ FOR INQUIRER*

Police arrest member of Manila-based kidnap group

DIGOS CITY—POLICE AUTHORITIES arrested an alleged member of the notorious Manila-based Sigatoka kidnap group during an operation in nearby Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

The operation was conducted on Wednesday by operatives of the Davao Oriental Sta. Cruz police.

Senior Supt. Jaime Morente, Davao City police chief, said they were trying to track down Jonard Barbosa, who carried a bounty of P250,000, in Barangay Tubalan.

Barbosa, he said, was one of the suspects in the kidnapping in Caridad of Costa Chan sometime in 2005.

Barbosa denied he was a member of the Sigatoka gang.

He said he was also not involved in Chua's kidnapping.

But Morente said the suspect was positively identified and had already been charged in court.

Barbosa was the second most wanted terrorist captured in Davao del Sur this month alone.

On Sept. 3, Calabarzon's (Region 4) fourth most wanted criminal was also arrested by police operatives in Jose Abad Santos town.

Dennis Pangantihon, 47, a native of Morong, Rizal, had been in hiding for 12 years after he was tagged as being behind the death of a police officer in Rizal in 1993.

Chief Insp. Rosita Cuesta-Ubeda, provincial officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) in Davao del Sur, told reporters on Tuesday that Pangantihon was hired as personal driver of a suspected gunrunner in Laguna in 1993 when he, along with a friend, pulled a police officer.

She did not identify the slain police officer but said Pangantihon took his gun and sold it for P6,000.

Pangantihon's arrest came after hiding in Jose Abad Santos, where his wife hails, she said.

Ubeda said Pangantihon, who carries a bounty of P100,000, was also wanted for robbery. *Orlando Dinoy and Joselle Bonilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

US lawyers denounce Joma arrest, jailing

DAVAO CITY—THE US-BASED National Lawyers Guild (NLG) denounced the arrest of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison.

In a statement dated Sept. 5, the group headed by Marjorie Cohn, said that Sison's arrest "exposes the fraud of the Aquino administration. In yet another assault on the rights of the people to dissent and organize."

Founded in 1937, the NLG is a progressive bar association in the United States and is based in New York.

"The assault has sent nearly a thousand men and women murdered, rebellion charges filed against members of Philippine Congress, and three NLG lawyers linked to the killings by the Philippine government," the group said.

Sison was arrested by Dutch authorities on Aug. 28 for the murder of former communist leaders Arturo Tabara and Benito Tiamzon.

The New People's Army (NPA), the CPP's armed wing, had owned up to the killings, which the government said, was carried out on Sison's order.

But the NLG said the accusations against Sison was baseless and his arrest "[is] just further evidence of trumped up war against those who challenge the Arroyo regime and reinforces the need to stop the repression now."

The group also criticized the raid conducted by Dutch authorities on the houses of Sison's colleagues in the Netherlands and the NDF office there.

Sison is also chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF).

"It is yet another attempt by the Macapagal-Arroyo government, in cooperation and in subservience to imperialist globalization, to stifle the political economy of US military presence, Filipinos and solidarity allies of the Philippine people's movement," the Gabriela Network (GABNet), the Philippine-US women's solidarity organization, said in a separate statement.

But Armed Forces Chief Hermogenes Esperon told reporters during a recent visit here that Sison was a murderer.

Esperon said aside from ordering the execution of five communist leaders, Sison was also behind the deaths of thousands of communist guerrillas suspected of having military spies.

Esperon also cited some of the NPA's anti-infiltration campaigns, including Kalisa, which was allegedly widely implemented in Mindanao during the 1980s. *Jeffrey Tupas with a report from Joselle Bonilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

KMU accuses Dutch gov't of connivance with GMA to protect its interests here

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S INterest in countering protection for its economic interests in the Philippines and the main reason behind its "persistence" with the Arroyo administration to arrest Jose Ma. Sison, the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno said yesterday.

According to KMU secretary general Wilson Baldemoro, the Dutch government "does not want the officials to be implicated in the Hacienda Luisita massacre and Ang Tibay—which were principally used in press interview that put against Sison in The Netherlands—most part of the evidence eliminated by the Supreme Court in praising the two rebellion cases filed against Sison," Baldemoro said.

Baldemoro hailed some of the big Dutch companies operating in the Philippines—oil and petroleum producers (Royal Dutch Shell); consumer products (Unilever); banking (ABN Amro); electronics (Philips); petroleum trading, oil and gas exploration (Vitol Group); insurance (AXA-Life); retail industry (Makro); commodity export (Simex B, S.Cotton); and solar energy (Shell Solar Philippines).

He said the Arroyo administration had "virtually turned over" the gas reserves of Malampaya in Palawan and converted the indigenous peoples' ancestral lands into agricultural plantations to serve Dutch multinational corporations.

"The Dutch government greatly underestimated and even rebuked the decision of the Supreme Court in the Philippines, which denies that it is only politically persecuting Professor Sison and his comrades in The Netherlands. If really the Dutch court would be objective and just, it will immediately release ... Sison and dismiss the wrongful up-case against him," Baldemoro said.

He said the KMU and its affiliates would continue organizing and joining protests around the world to reclaim Sison's freedom. Antonio Aring

DUTCH TREAT: With a rally permit from the Makati City Hall, protesters go all the way to the Dutch Embassy in Makati City to manifest support for Jose Sison who is in jail in the Hague. NIÑO JESUS

Dutch companies

"It is clear that the accusations of the relatives of Eleanor Joel Nitorio that Supreme Court ordered the shelling of their husbands are unfounded. The Supreme Court, which is the highest court of the land, said so in its ruling last July," Baldemoro said in a statement.

He added: "What The Netherlands wants is to ensure that its various business and investments in the Philippines are protected and even expanded by arresting one of the most outspoken of the Arroyo government, and that is ... Sison."

Baldemoro listed some of the big Dutch companies operating in the Philippines—oil and petroleum producers (Royal Dutch Shell); consumer products (Unilever); banking (ABN Amro); electronics (Philips); petroleum trading, oil and gas exploration (Vitol Group); insurance (AXA-Life); retail industry (Makro); commodity export (Simex B, S.Cotton); and solar energy (Shell Solar Philippines).

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 8, 2007
Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st Reading: Mic 5:1-4 (or Rom 8:28-30)
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

This is the account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar), Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron of Aram, Aram was the father of Amminadib, Amminadib of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon,

Salmon was the father of Boaz, Bo (mother was Rahab), Boaz was the father of Obed, (the mother was Ruth), Obed was the father of Jesse,

Jesse was the father of David, the king. David was the father of Solomon, (his mother had been Uriah's wife),

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam was the father of Abijah, Abijah of Asaph,

Asaphjehat, Jehoram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah,

Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel and Salathiel of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud of Eliakim, and Eliakim of Azor, Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, and Akim the father of Eliud, Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar of Matthan, and Matthan of Jacob,

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was Jesus whom is called the Christ—the Messiah.

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, (who) plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and is in no way did he want to discredit her,

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him Jesus for he will save his people from the sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Immanuel, which means God with us.

Commentary:

We always read about Jesus on the days we honor Mary. It is for child and the historical documents recording Jesus's birth. Matthew and Luke who make us human. The child is born in Bethlehem—a place of no consequence but still bring forth a shepherd to the strength of God who shall lead the souls of the earth and shall be peace.

All things were together for God. And it is the first born of many brothers and sisters—we are all given birth in Jesus and adopted in God. Jesus who gives birth like her parents. We call it and but it was her child, the love of his Father, who gave birth to her as the power of the Spirit, giving the birth to the Father as result of us to grow over to God.

We are all called to give thanks to the Mother for birth and to celebrate our birthdays—born in this world, born into Christ, children to God's love beginning, and for John the Baby (6:39 in the Church Pagan Birthdays Made and so all.

Gregorio Araneta Inc., 6 Bonanza St., GF-01 San Miguel, Mandaluyong, CP 634, Box 4, Makati, 1256 Quezon City, tel. 921-3000, fax 921-3450, E-mail: [illegible] Website: http://www.[illegible] Editorial: [illegible] Circulation: [illegible] Advertising: [illegible] http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=[illegible] Also available on the Philippines

Gov't grants amnesty to CPP, NPA, NDF

Turn to page A7

son's lawyer Victor Koppe on saying that a Dutch court in The Hague found defense arguments on Friday for dropping murder charges against his client and acknowledged were sound, on whether or not time the case. Due entry on Page A2.)

Sison was arrested and detained by Dutch police last week for allegedly ordering the killing of former CPP leaders Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara in 2001 and 2006, respectively. He has denied involvement in the killings. (See related story on Page A17.)

Ms. Arroyo, who issued a final proclamation forged with communist rebels before the end of her term in 2010, signed the proclamation on the day she flew to Sydney to attend the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. It was made public only yesterday.

"There is an urgent need and expressed desire to extend amnesty to members of the CPP/NPA/NDF and other communist rebel groups as an instrument of reconciliation, and as a path for their return to a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic society," Ms Arroyo said.

Needs Congress concurrence

The proclamation was drafted by Ermita. To be legal and binding, it requires the concurrence of the majority of all members of Congress.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said certified copies of the proclamation had been transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives "for concurrence in accordance with the Constitution."

The proclamation mandates rebels to file their application "under oath" with the National Committee on Social Integration and The Presidential or CID Peace and Order Council. Amnesty Grants (CPDOC, etc.) within six months from the effectivity of the proclamation.

The President signed the proclamation two days after the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) formally approved the grant of amnesty to communist rebels who will lay down their arms.

But NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal assailed the proposed amnesty as "a political gimmick."

"It will be totally ignored and soundly rejected by the revolutionary forces," he said in a statement.

P5-B initial fund

Ms. Arroyo, who presided over the NRC meeting on Tuesday said in her opening statement that she had allotted P5 billion as initial fund to bankroll a nationwide amnesty program.

She said the fund would "hasten a viable peace and security in the region with the local and religious officials at the helm, supported by the entire national government."

The initial amount needed to implement the amnesty program will come from the Office of the President and will be reimbursed by Congress's office.

Regular funds will be provided for its implementation in the succeeding years under the General Appropriations Act.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the Armed Forces chief of staff, said he favored amnesty for communist rebels who would "renounce their firearms and altogether demonstrate utmost struggle."

He said there would be no committee even if the amnesty program had taken effect.

"There will be no committee, as far as I understand. If [the rebels] want to take advantage of the social integration program, all they have to do is apply for it and surrender their firearms. Then they will be given livelihood assistance," Esperon said.

Integral to peace efforts

In Proclamation 1377, the President said "accepting rebels back to the fold of the law through amnesty and eventually providing them access to the government's existing socio-economic programs are essential to attaining peace and reconciliation."

"The amnesty program is an integral component of the government's comprehensive peace efforts" as mandated in Executive Order No. 3 dated Feb. 28, 2001, she said.

She added that the amnesty grant set under Proclamation No. 1377 was part of the Social Integration Program for former rebels as provided by Administrative Order No. 172, which she issued last March 20.

The proposed amnesty covers "those who committed and all other crimes included therein or incident thereto in pursuit of political belief as defined by jurisprudence, whether punishable under the Revised Penal Code or special laws."

"Crimes against chastity, rape, treason, kidnapping for ransom, and trafficking of illegal drugs and other crimes for personal ends and violations of international law or common and peaceful, even if alleged to have been committed in pursuit of political beliefs," are not covered.

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Doble tags GMA aide; Bishop Soc names Medy Poblador

From page A1

to the public in June 2005 supposedly containing fabricated phone conversations between Mr. Neri and Garci/Bruno, to the minutes that appointed to support Doble's claim of Poblador's involvement.

Lacson cited Villegas' letter as corroborating Doble's testimony.

Doble, who said he was part of an intelligence team that monitored and recorded the "Hello Garci" conversations, sought refuge in San Carlos Seminary in Makati City in June 2005, fearing what former National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) official Samuel Ong.

They hid in the seminary after Ong claimed to possess the so-called "mother of all tapes" containing the supposed Arroyo-Garcillano conversations, citing raid his copy came from Doble.

Meeting Medy

Doble was later taken out of the seminary by Bishop Villegas and brought to Camp Aguinaldo.

Inside the camp, at the officer residence of then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Oba, he met Medy, Doble told the Senate.

"I saw Abu, (then) AFP Vice Chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ecliberto Aslan and a woman," he said. "My wife Arlene said the woman was Medy ... a secretary of President Arroyo."

He said that Medy had approached his wife and told her that if they had any problems they could come to her.

Lacson said that Poblador "is the personal confidante of Presidential Spouse."

"Information has it that there are only two persons personally allowed by President Arroyo to ride in her car—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Poblador," Lacson said.

Malacañang did not attend the Senate hearing.

Concern for seminarians

Instead, the bishop wrote a letter to the Senate through Sen. Rodolfo "Rodong" Aquino III, saying he would not attend "on account of my religious duties and pastoral commitments as Bishop of the Catholic Church."

Villegas defended his role in getting Doble out of the San Carlos Seminary, saying he did it out of concern for the safety of the seminarians and not in support of any warring political factions.

"I wish to state categorically that I did what I did because of my love and concern for our dedicated and confined seminarians whose building was torn asunder and whose seminary rhythm and priestly discipline was disturbed," Villegas said.

Villegas said that on June 13, 2005, apart from receiving milk from priests at the seminary "asking for help," he also received "a box of Milo" from Medy, whom he knew to be one of the assistants of former President Corazon Aquino.

He said it was only later that he realized that Poblador had already become a member of the staff of Mrs. Arroyo.

Crisis at the seminary

The bishop said Poblador had asked him to come and help resolve "the ongoing crisis" in the seminary, where Doble and Ong were in hiding.

"I told you do I experienced concern for our seminarians inside the compound where priestly discipline of study, prayer and silence was being disturbed by the presence of Atty. Ong and Mr. Doble," said Villegas.

He said Poblador also arranged for him to be picked up by the Scout Rangers.

Arriving at Camp Aguinaldo, Villegas said he was briefed about the situation.

At the time, the city was awash with rumors that the military was planning to murder Doble out of the seminary.

Black van

Villegas said he was then provided with a black van—which Doble said was owned by then military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victorio Ilanga—and driven to the seminary along the way he said he called Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales to ask for his blessings.

Villegas said he found Doble at the visitors' reception area of the seminary and told him he had come to bring him out.

"I told Doble the cell phone of your wife to prove to you that I am a good person and will cause you no harm," the bishop said.

Doble called his wife on the phone and then told the bishop he was ready to go with him, according to Villegas.

Villegas said he brought Doble to the seminary chapel to pray just before they left the compound for Camp Aguinaldo.

Ready to die

"I did it as a bishop whose motto (in) is to be a father to his priests and former priests," Villegas said.

"If there was indeed to be a military operation in the seminary we bring out Mr. Doble and Atty. Ong that day. I wanted to be with our seminarians and priests that moment of crisis to assure them, to console them that I will not leave them that I was ready to die with them."

Doble told the senators that Medy he saw at Camp Aguinaldo wore a shirt, jeans and rubber shoes, and that he could identify her when he sees her again.

"Obviously, Malacañang was interested in spiriting out Doble from San Carlos so that he could not reveal what he wanted to reveal at the time," Lacson told reporters after the hearing.

Doble claimed the reason he could not talk of what he knew about the "Hello Garci" tapes then was because the military was dominating his family.

Doble, who had previously said Smart Communications Inc. was used to log Mr. Arroyo's conversations with Garcillano, yesterday alleged that Globe Telecoms was also involved.

Representatives of the country's largest telecommunications firms left hush on their previous assertions that they were never engaged in wiretapping activities.

In a telephone interview, Globe Telecom spokesperson James Campos reiterated that the company had no capability for wiretapping operations.

Smart, Globe denials

"We categorically deny any involvement in any illegal activity," he added.

Smart Communications Inc. in a statement said it "has not and will not participate in any illegal wiretapping operations by any agency of the government."

"Smart maintains strict policies prohibiting the participation of any employee in such illegal activities," it said. "Any personnel found to be violating this will face the appropriate sanctions." With reports from Shaine L. Lucas and Beverly T. Asuncion

Pro-, anti-GMA senators clash over Doble testimony

From page A1

house and GI, including statements that he was paid P5 million for releasing the tapes to top officers of the National Bureau of Investigation.

But the opposition bloc, Panfilo Lacson, former Tesda chief Doble was "bullied" by Palace officials to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the 2004 election fraud controversy and the alleged cover up operations orchestrated by Malacañang.

Tension was already high early on, with Gordon taking a swipe at Lacson for supposedly coaching Doble.

Gordon pointedly noted how Lacson supplemented a portion of Doble's testimony that mentioned a certain "Medy." Lacson then explained that Doble must be referring to Remedios Poblador, a "small, soft-spoken woman" in her 50s.

Later in an interview with reporters, he noted that Doble "was not yet established who Medy is" and that "a senator should not do that for him."

He said Doble's testimony was "already damaged, it's all hearsay. He had a chance to tell the court he was being coerced but he did not; he was just following orders."

Sotto is "an unreliable witness," Gordon added, wondering how Doble could have had "personal knowledge" that two major cell phone service providers, Globe and Smart, had supposedly helped the government tap Doble's wife's ongoing operations.

'Master of double talk'

"He just said he rejected (offers) to them (Globe and Smart). What (do witnesses) usually say (is) 'I refused to answer' who could be spontaneous when answering questions 'Ito' so him but would not answer when refusing questions that 'he was not recorded by.'"

Estrella said he was able to get Doble down as a "functional liar" when the latter witnessed that he told the truth to the Court of Appeals and then backtracked with his testimony in the Senate.

Estrella also doubted Doble's claim that his life had been in danger since leaving the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, noting: "For eight months, he was out of military service and he lived in a village, inside a military camp, but nothing happened to him. So what threat is he talking about?"

What became clear yesterday, Estrella said, was that Doble simply set out to manufacture, by a "lying and I don't appreciate that," he added.

"He's really the master of double talk," Gordon said.

Also in an interview after the hearing, Estrella described Doble as an "educated moron" who could be spontaneous when answering questions "Ito" so him but would not answer when refusing questions that "he was not recorded by."

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Palace protesters

"I told Doble at the outset, you don't have to consult your lawyer if you are telling the truth. You cannot justify these people—Senators Dick Gordon, Estrella and Arroyo—as counsel for many witnesses you present. They will never be satisfied because they have their own mind set to protect, which is Malacañang's," Lacson said.

"I don't know what the intervention is, but it was clear they wanted to disrupt the proceedings and discredit Doble. They did not succeed," he added.

Opposition Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, maintained "there is a reason to believe what he is saying because it is logical."

"Base yourself on his choice—you are a soldier, you know what will happen. Should you say in the House and Court of Appeals that the voice on the tape is the President's? No matter who is in his position, you will be afraid," said Cayetano.

For Gordon, Lacson made a mistake by anchoring the revised "Hello Garci" inquiry on a witness with "zero credibility," especially after Doble's assertion that he was disposed by his own superiors.

"It will be for sure against them (Doble's superiors). They would just say how could you believe him, your honors, when he had lied to his wife—he has three—and he had lied to the Lower House, the Court of Appeals, and that he took some money," Gordon said.

"He is not to be afraid of the ones who gave him the money for double-crossing them," said Gordon.

Cayetano, who figured in his first televised Senate hearing, admitted feeling the pressure "supernatural" as the committee chair. But it felt like there was tension in every single question, in every nuance, in every issue."

Double standard

There was also a heated exchange between Arroyo and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on how to treat a witness.

Pimentel questioned what he read in Arroyo's testimony that Doble requested on his answers but Arroyo cited "double standard," saying no complaints have been raised against other senators about their style of questioning.

Who's Medy, why she makes things happen

From page A1

carlang listed "Remedios L. Poblador" as assistant secretary in the Palace's "Private Offices," with landline number 924-6700 and 911-1200 for fax.

During the Senate hearing on the "Hello, Garci" case yesterday, Poblador's name was also heard being called Sen. Peter Cayetano, who was a 3-term congressman, if he had ever seen Poblador in the House. Cayetano replied in the negative, Lacson said.

Pastor, who said he talked with her over the phone, denied Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claims that Poblador was a personal confidante of President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

"I don't think that qualifies her to be a confidante of the President," said Pastor.

He said she would face the public soon.

"In due time, she's going to be making statements on this matter," said Pastor, who could not reveal Poblador's whereabouts.

"She's a relative of Archbishop (Gaudencio) Cardinal) Rosales," Pastor said, explaining why Poblador was in Camp Aguinaldo, where he met Bishop Socrates Villegas and former Tesda chief Doble. That occurred two years after Doble had left his hiding place at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati and went with the bishop to the military headquarters.

He helped the Doblers

"I hope we put things in the proper context," Pastor said, adding in Filipino: "It cannot be denied that she helped the family."

He said Poblador helped the Doble family as an "act of charity."

Pastor said that when the military was about to search the Makati seminary, where Doble and Samuel Ong had taken refuge, "they asked the help of someone who can talk to the bishop, so that evidence would be available these days."

"She was asked to call (Lt. Gen.) Romeo Rosales because she's a relative of Cardinal Rosales," she because "she's a Palace official," Pastor said.

"I think we should credit her for that, not misinterpret her participation and put all kinds of motivation."

No proof

After that, Poblador had been regularly helping Doble's family, the pastor said.

Told about Lacson's claim that Poblador's intervention brought the "Hello Garci" issue to Malacañang's doorsteps, Pastor said:

"Insinuation means it has no proof. And that is exactly what it is. It is an insinuation which is unfounded," Pastor said. "Why, the help they (the Lacson camp) is giving to Sgt. Doble, isn't that (proof) that they are also involved, whatever is it?"

He said what Poblador did was "personal" act.

"Public officials have a duty to help people who come to them for assistance in good faith. Is it wrong?"

Hardworking, professional

Pastor challenged Lacson's camp to show proof that Poblador's help had strings attached.

"Anybody can accuse anybody of anything, but for Undersecretary Poblador to be accused of being a spy for whom? Lying in an inhabitable lie," he said.

She's a "low key" official, he said, describing her as "very hardworking, very intelligent ... very devoted" and "professional."

She appeared to people new to the job, he said.

"Since the republican of people that are resourceful and positive people."

Malacañang sources said she kept a low profile in the early days of her work in the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) under then political adviser Gabriel Claudio.

Despite being low key, her role became crucial for Mr. Arroyo—she kept senators who needed favors from Malacañang appointed to the right people, the sources said.

Eloped with boss

Poblador was no stranger to Malacañang. While working in the provincial office during the term of President Corazon Aquino, she eloped with her boss, Ambassador Miguel Perez Dalido.

But after a few years, the relationship fell apart.

Problem solver

Under the Arroyo administration, she became a problem solver, especially if it involved problems of legislators whose support the administration sought.

Malacañang officials who had encountered her dealt with talk, or officials in the Palace said she had seen the deep mess of Mr. Arroyo and claimed that she sometimes felt she was to the same level as members of the Cabinet.

At one point, said an official who witnessed one incident, she had shouted at a Cabinet secretary in the Guest House.

"Ikinuro nya kahapit Dito's (last gauntlet)," said the source, a middle-level official of Malacañang, who refused to be identified.

Culinary whiz

One of the things that made her famous in the Guest House, according to other sources who had worked there, was her good cooking.

Every Monday, she would bring food to Claudio's office and, soon, word about her good cooking spread and brought other Cabinet officials over to Claudio's office for impromptu picnics.

Ms. Arroyo herself had tasted her cooking, the sources said.

Aside from her food, however, Poblador officials who knew her work said she had become skilled at finding solutions to problems brought to the PLLO by congressmen and senators.

Some of the problems were where to find money for projects, or "special requests that don't go through the regular channels."

"She's the one to go to if you're a congressman or senator and you have a special request," said the source.

This role remains from her official title as head of the PLLO, but sources say she dealt with the lines of communication are kept open between Congress and Malacañang.

Corrupt China exec done in by 11 mistresses

From page A1

or other abuses of power).

Fang Jiqun, 63, former deputy head of the provincial political advisory body in the northeastern province of Shanxi, was sacked and expelled from the Communist Party for graft, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Fang did not report that he would be brought down by his own 11 mistresses," the official People's Daily said in a report carried on its web site.

Subordinates' wives

Fang, who was also party boss of Hangji city, had lured several women, mostly "pretty and young" wives of his subordinates, to be his mistresses, it said.

He helped them "make big money" by assigning them or their husbands huge government or other financial projects, it added.

In one Chinese-German project in which Fang's wife and mistresses were involved, water pipes exploded and collapsed only half a year after completion, it said.

Death sentences

The mistresses decided to denounce Fang to the party after some of their husbands were sentenced to death for graft in cases related to Fang.

The party's discipline inspection commission said in July that they would deal with the cases severely.

"We had arrested Fang, days is severe punishment," the report said.

Chinese media said the week that 90 percent of the country's most senior officials punished for "serious" graft in the last five years had kept mistresses.

Rampant graft

Duan Xike, former party chief of Jinan city in the eastern province of Shandong, was executed on Wednesday for blowing up his mistress after growing tired of her constant money demands.

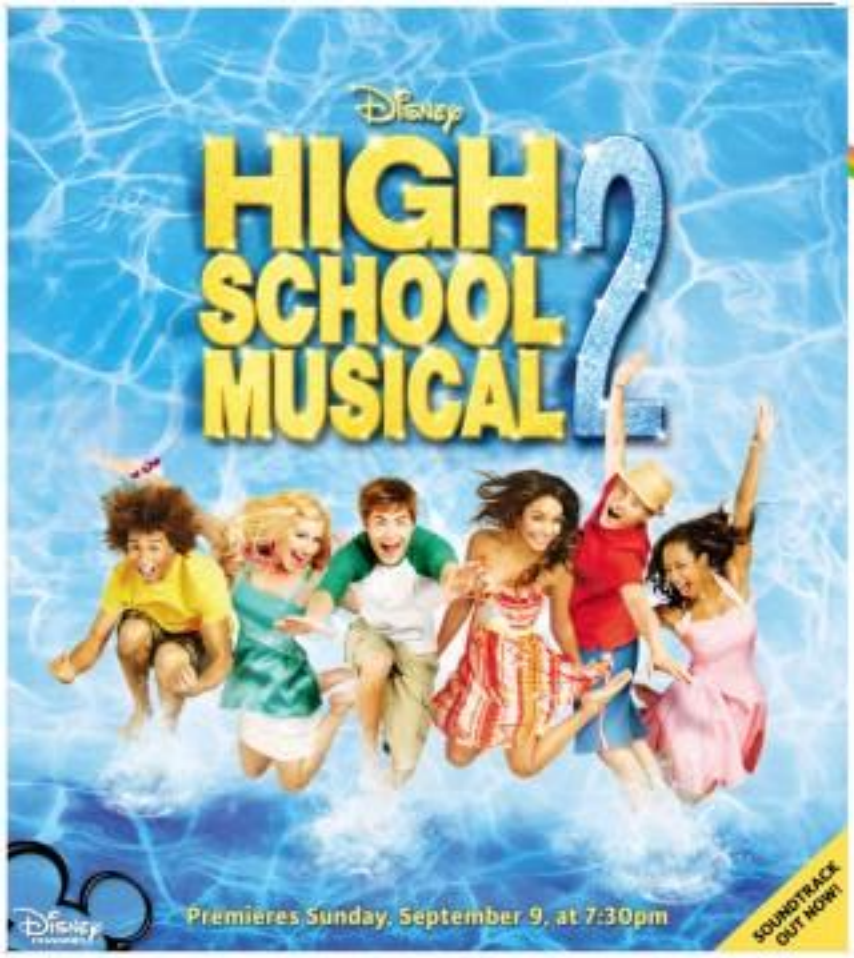
Hong Kong newspaper reports said former Finance Ministry official Zheng Xiaoyu was sentenced last month to part his a dollhouse with a food studio. A government spokesperson said he had resigned for "personal reasons."

Corruption very serious

With a five-yearly Communist Party Congress due to open next month, and the fight against rampant corruption likely to loom large, official media fears days are full of reports of senior officials meeting their comeuppance.

Top leaders have insisted that the level of official corruption is so serious that it could threaten the party's continuing rule.

Reuters



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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Come out, hazing death suspects told

4 new witnesses name fratmen in initiation rites

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Tina G. Santos, Jerry E. Esplanada and Nikko Catcher Cathija, Inquirer Southern Luzon

FACE US. TELL US THE TRUTH.

Cristino Garcia Mendez, mother of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez, made the appeal yesterday to persons involved in her son's death.

Cris was a senior University of the Philippines (UP) public administration student.

Following a Mass in the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) quadrangle, a teary-eyed Cristino said, "Maraparin nilang patayin ito sa unang hataw pa lang, pero nilubog hanggang gitnain. Isinakal. Ang hirap-hirap ng ginawa nila."

(They had the courage to do this to my son so they should have the courage to face the responsibility for what they did.)

Four new witnesses, whose names were withheld, meanwhile, went to the Quezon City Police District and identified members of a fraternity who allegedly participated in initiation rites on Aug. 25-26 in a house in Barangay Pansol, Talisay, Batangas, Quezon City.

A source told the Inquirer that the witnesses are all UP students, two doing members of the big ten fries.

"Two of the witnesses were able to give an number of those fraternity members who actually participated in the initiation rites while the two other students provided us vital information that backed up statements given by the two frightening members," the source said.

The victim's mother received an extension from the river diameter like shirt Enriquez, representing the administration, and NCPAG members that all resources of the university were being tethered in the UP saying, "Mr. NCPAG alumni condemn the arrogance of the fraternity to even think of ruling the university."

NCPAG professor Leonor Briones appealed to other UP colleges to act and discipline students suspected of involvement in Cris' death.

Meanwhile, 11 fraternities, including the Sigma Rho signed yesterday a resolution and declaration against campus violence. Among the signatories were Beta Epsilon, Beta Sigma, Di Omicron, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Sigma, Pan Kona, Iconoclasts, Aurs, Tau Alpha, Alpha Phi Beta, and Upsilon Sigma Phi.

They denounced all forms of violence "particularly in our admission and initiation processes as well as in our relationship with other fraternities."

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it would ask the Bureau of Immigration to put on its watch list Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., the doctor who brought the victim to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, for ignoring the latter's comments.

Reinido Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said Cruz's testimony "is indispensable" and his apparent refusal [illegible]

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines officials, students and friends of Cris Mendez (in framed photograph) attend Mass held at the National College of Public Administration and Governance, yesterday.

Police monitoring activities of Erap supporters

By Nancy C. Carvajal

METRO POLICE WERE ORDERED to monitor the activities of supporters of former President Erap and to take preemptive measures in preparation for the promulgation of the decision in the plunder case against him, his son Jinggoy Estrada and his lawyer Ed Serapio.

In a memorandum dated Sept. 3, National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Reynaldo Varilla instructed police intelligence units to monitor the activities of Estrada supporters following an intelligence report that members of the Erap Para Sa Masa movement would stage actions if the Sandiganbayan convicted Estrada.

Four people were killed while hundreds were wounded when pro-Estrada loyalists tried to storm Malacañang in 2001.

The police memo said protests would be spearheaded by actor Rez Cortez and Estrada supporters Linggay Alvarez.

"A series of mass actions, and protests will be held to protest the alleged unfavorable judgment and Malacañang's manipulation of the court's decision on Erap's plunder case," the memorandum said.

It also said the group got the approval of Manila City Mayor Alfredo Lim for the use of Mendiola bridge and Liwasang Bonifacio as staging points of their protests.

It was also mentioned that several senators were reportedly drafting a manifesto of support for the deposed leader. Named as signatories were Senators Estrada, Juinatan Tiglao, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile.

The National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines was reportedly considering a study to determine the people's sentiment on Erap's possible pardon.

The order of Colonels Idel Ibbon, Hermie and Villaruel, which have the biggest number of deployed units, are known to be ballwatchs of the deposed leader.

MAKING A STAND
Children display posters placards during a candlevigil against child pornography held outside the College of St. Benilde auditorium in Manila yesterday in preparation for National Children's Month in October. The Anti-Child Pornography Alliance gathered children in the capital in rare unity for victory to actively promote and defend the basic rights and freedoms of Filipino children against all forms of abuses. GERRY ALANSANG

2 suspected shabu peddlers arrested

By Julie M. Aurelio

A CHINESE NATIONAL WAS apprehended after police found methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as shabu, worth almost P5 million in buy-bust operations during a four-hour encounter in Tondo, Manila the other day.

Chua Ling Chow and his companion, Marlon Sawian, who were charged with violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, are now detained at the Northeast Capital Region Police Office in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

Operatives from the Regional Police Intelligence Operation Unit secured the pair during an entrapment operation along F. Agoncillo Street corner Recto St. in Tondo at around 5:30 p.m. of Sept 6.

Team leader Senior Insp. Roberto Patrimo said they had been monitoring the pair for a long time now. An asset tipped them about the Chinese national's alleged drug-peddling activities in the Tondo area. Police Director Geary Barias, NRPO chief Supt. Nap Villegas.

Apart from the two bags of a white crystalline substance which were later confirmed to be shabu, police also found an Ammscor cal. 45 semi-automatic pistol with 6 live bullets and two Toyota Revo (SBN 791), a blue Toyota Corolla (WPE 734), and a white Honda Civic (UBC 633).

La Naval committee highlights centennial events

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE CELEBRATION FOR THE grand centennial canonical coronation of the Our Lady of Holy Rosary-La Naval de Manila goes into high gear with the 9th Domingo Classic in Quezon City in earnest of all activities.

The extensive preparations, committed as early as two years ago, will culminate in a series of events on October 7, Our Lady of La Naval's 100th year of venerated coronation.

"This is also a celebration of the Filipino faith," Rev. Fr. Hermino Engeleg, chair of the La Naval Centennial Committee, said in a press conference yesterday. "We celebrate the feast of the Our Lady of La Naval to remind us that whatever battles—be it personal or otherwise—we go through in our every day lives, we will succeed because Mary is there."

The highlight of the celebration is the re-enactment of the Our Lady of La Naval's coronation on Oct. 8 at the Mo. Domingo Church in Quezon City, the center

Mother of missing UK girl to be named a suspect

KATE McCann walking out from a police station in Portimao, southern Portugal on Sept. 7. REUTERS

PRAIA DO OSTIEL, PORTUGAL—The mother of a British girl who disappeared four months ago in southern Portugal will be named a formal suspect in the case Friday, a family spokesperson said.

Kate McCann was questioned for almost 11 hours on Thursday and is due back at a police station in Portimao, a town in Portugal's Algarve region, later Friday morning (Saturday in Manila), family spokesperson Clarence Hughes said.

When asked about reports that Mrs Cann would be named a suspect in her daughter Madeleine's disappearance, Hughes said: "They told her last night that it would happen today but today. That's definite."

Police announced Mrs Cann after receiving new forensic evidence. Police spokesperson Olegario Sousa said authorities have received some results from forensic tests of the apartment, but declined to elaborate on the findings.

The tests ...on specks of blood, items of clothing and other objects in the apartment...were conducted at a British laboratory.

Kate McCann and her husband Gerry, both doctors from central England, have spearheaded an intense media campaign since 4-year-old Madeleine went missing from a holiday apartment in the Algarve where she was sleeping with her 2-year-old twin siblings. The parents say they were at the bar at the time in a nearby restaurant, but were checking on the children frequently.

The McCanns toured Europe with photos and stuffed animals of Madeleine, even meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. Celebrities like J.K. Rowling and David Beckham made public appeals that helped the family raise more than one million pounds ($2 million).

Their cause, and the couple's apparent strength in the face of adversity, has hit a nerve among millions, who have followed their lives as they cared for their other children and frequented a local church in Praia da Luz, the seaside town where Madeleine disappeared, and where they stayed over Mass. Photographs of the bright-eyed, fair-haired little girl have been posted throughout Europe and elsewhere.

The publicity has helped lead to numerous reported sightings of the girl, from as far away as northern Europe and Morocco, amid speculation she might have been taken by an international pedophile ring.

Hughes said the police have 22 questions that they want to ask Kate McCann, which require her to be made a formal suspect. Under Portuguese law, the legal move grants certain protections to suspects, but allows police more latitude in questioning.

The spokesperson said that Every McCann would also meet with police in Portimao, separately in the afternoon. The couple has maintained their innocence throughout.

Just after Kate McCann entered the police station Thursday, another family representative read out a statement from her appealing to what she called Madeleine's abductor to "do the right thing."

"It is not too late. Please let her go or call the police," she said.

In recent months, the McCanns have attended meetings with the police together. Officials described those meetings as informal, saying they wanted to keep the parents informed of developments in the case. AP

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Madeleine McCann, who was reported missing during a family holiday in the Algarve region of Portugal AP

WORLD BRIEFS

7 US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD— The US military said on Friday that insurgents have killed seven American troops in separate attacks in Iraq. Four marines and three soldiers were killed in two different incidents on Thursday, the military said. The marines were killed during combat operations in the restive province of Anbar, west of Baghdad, a statement said. The province, a onetime stronghold of al-Qaeda-led Sunni insurgents, has been touted as a counterinsurgency success story by top American officials, including President George W. Bush. The three soldiers were killed in the northern province of Nineveh when insurgents detonated a roadside bomb near their vehicle, the military said. The latest deaths brought the military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 3,769, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures and updated on Thursday. AFP

Indonesia urges action over maid abuse in Malaysia

JAKARTA— Indonesia urged Malaysia on Friday to speed up legal cases against employers accused of abusing Indonesian maids, saying slowing governmental ears as a deterrent. The call came amid tensions between Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur over the alleged assault of an Indonesian maid by Malaysia's police. Two Indonesian maids had in recent months climbed out of the windows of apartments where they worked along a rope, alleging abuse by their Malaysian employers. Last month a Malaysian woman was charged with the murder of her Indonesian maid. More than one million Indonesians work in seven different Malaysia, including 240,000 who serve as domestic workers. Malaysia says about 1,200 maids flee from the homes of their Malaysian employers each month, but it does not count its legion of working conditions even though the migrants usually work long hours for low pay. Reuters

Syria accuses Israel of bombing its territory

DAMASCUS—Syria accused Israel of bombing its territory on Thursday and said it would respond to the Jewish state's "aggression and treachery." Israel declined to comment on the charge in Syria, which said no casualties or damage were caused. The Syrian accusation rose partly responsible for triggering a nine-month-old peace of more than $1.46 billion. "It appears that the Israeli planes were on a reconnaissance mission when they got caught by Syrian defenses and were forced to drop their bombs and were then fled home," said a Ministry statement on Syria's capital Damascus, either overalls, in which talks of resuming long-stalled peace negotiations between neighbouring Israel and Syria has been raised until speculation as both sides that the other was preparing a surprise attack. Syrian officials hit out. "This shows that Israel cannot give up aggression and treachery," Syrian Information Minister Mohsen Bilal said. Reuters

Algeria bomb attack kills 14 ahead of presidential visit

ALGIERS—A suicide bomber killed 14 people when he blew himself up in the Algerian town of Batna on Thursday ahead of a scheduled visit by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the Interior minister said. Bouteflika, who later visited scene of the attack, Boudefflika, who later visited scene of the dynamic area outside the hospital. Islamist Islamist Islamic militants, the group known as "Al-Qaeda" Bouteflika accused Islamist militants of trying to scuttle his policy of national reconciliation, which is aimed at ending 15 years of fighting between the army and groups trying to set up a purist Islamic state. "Terrorist acts have absolutely nothing in common with the noble values of Islam," he said. Reuters

iPhone owners crying foul over price cut of over $200

SAN FRANCISCO— In June, they were calling it the Cool Phone. On Thursday, it was the Chump Phone. People who had rushed to buy the Apple iPhone over the past two months suddenly and embarrassingly found they had overpaid for the year's most coveted gadget by $200. Apple, based in Cupertino, Calif., has made few missteps over the last decade, but it angered many of its most loyal customers by sharply dropping the price of its iPhone to $400 from $600 only two months after it first went on sale. Only last the company announced things, through e-mails and with phone calls, the iPhone by a remarkable concession. Steve Jobs acknowledged the company had abused its customers' trust and authorized a $100 store credit to the early iPhone buyers. NYT

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The WORLD

Julie Lawrence B. Cueva

Bin Laden tapes

Nine video posted on re-released (Sept. 7)

Sept. 7 Audio

Sept. 6 Audio

Sept. 5 Audio

Sept. 4 Audio

Sept. 3 Video

Sept. 2 Audio

Sept. 1 Audio

Aug. 31 Audio

Bin Laden to taunt US anew in video marking Sept. 11

WASHINGTON—OSAMA BIN LADEN PLANS TO emerge from the shadows to taunt the United States again in a video message marking the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, US-based monitoring services and a militant website said.

The video from the world's most-wanted man, first announced late Thursday by US services that monitor militant websites, would be the first such appearance by the lanky mastermind since October 2006, when he threatened new attacks against the United States just days before a US election.

A US official said Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network was using the media to manipulate and try to intimidate Americans.

"The Site Intelligence Group has learned that a new video message is forthcoming from the head of al-Qaida" on the 9/11 anniversary, said the group, which monitors extremist websites and publications.

The al-Qaida network's media arm, as-Sahab, announced the video in a notice posted on jihadist forums, according to Site.

"Soon, God willing, a video tape from the lion sheikh Osama bin Laden, God preserve him," the notice read.

A website used by Islamist militants that carried the notice showed a photo of Bin Laden in which his black beard did not have the usual streaks of gray.

He was also not wearing a camouflage jacket as in past appearances. Instead, the top-half photo showed him wearing a white robe topped by a beige cloak, similar to the traditional dress of men in the Gulf region, and looking more like a Muslim cleric than a fighter.

The video of the soft-spoken al-Qaida leader who has claimed credit for the 9/11 attacks will be examined intently with every small and visual detail dissected by intelligence agencies in Washington and around the world.

Bin Laden, who has had a number of audiotapes aired but not a live video for his last videotape appearance, has avoided capture since the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The last video inspired an emotional and extensive analysis while his al-Qaida network has repeatedly threatened to attack US targets again.

The United States said any video message would be followed closely and that the presence of Bin Laden remained a top priority.

"Obviously, it's a huge priority for us to capture and kill Bin Laden and bring him and the rest of the leadership to justice," said Frances Townsend, the US president's homeland security adviser.

Townsend said CNN television that the video, and previous al-Qaida statements, were designed as propaganda to spread fear among Americans.

"We're being manipulated every time that they issue a statement, because they're trying to use the media as a way to terrorize us," she said.

While other senior figures had been ranked dozen, "there is no greater target on our al-Qaida list than Bin Laden," Townsend said.

She said that while public statements from al-Qaida were monitored, authorities were most concerned about dangerous covert conspirators.

"What I take far more seriously are the plans," she said, citing recent arrests in Germany and Denmark involving alleged terrorist threats. AFP

UNCUT? photo of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/E)

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WHAT'S INSIDE
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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delos Santos
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.sports@inquirer.com.ph 559 Villalon cor. JRU Streets Email: jc_quirit@inquirer.com.ph

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UE seeks No. 13; Lipa ready to go

RATHER THAN WORRY, UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST COACH Diedo Pesumen sees his Warriors' recent escape acts as "good experience."

"We need those kinds of games, especially now that we're nearing the end of the eliminations," he said. "Those games test our composure and I'm happy that the boys are responding well even in tight situations."

Pesumen is referring to UE's scrambling victories over Ateneo, 73-68, on Aug. 22, Perpetual University, 76-68, on Aug. 25 and Far Eastern, 79-72, last Saturday.

Another UE rally today against University of the Philippines will push the Warriors within a win of an outright championship berth, the incentive given to a team that completes a 14-0 sweep of the UAAP eliminations round.

"Believe it or not, we're not looking that far ahead," said Pumaloi as the Warriors gear up for their 13th straight victory against the winless Maroons at 2 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We prepare for each game, as our focus now is just UEP," he added. "We're only thinking of going for win No. 13."

But a win is more crucial for the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the No. 6 Bulldogs, who will be slugging for survival at 4 p.m.

Ranked in the bottom four, both squads will be teetering on the edge of elimination if they lose over Ateneo and Adamson.

The Tamaraws—who gave the Warriors a scare last week—lost three of their last four matches to drop to fifth place at 6-6.

Another loss will put the Tamaraws in danger of missing the Final Four for the second straight season after bagging the title in 2005.

Unlike the Tamaraws, the Warriors have a lot of reliable hands to turn to in every game.

"Even if we're unsure of the top spot, I tell the boys there should be no let up," said Pesumen.

The Warriors clobbered the Maroons, 97-66, in the first round.

And last Thursday, coach Joe Lipa assumed responsibility for the Maroons' woeful campaign after dismissing a seven- 39-point beating, 93-54, at the hand of the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

"A lot of groups are lobbying for me to be out," admitted Lipa.

Jasmine M. Payo

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TSAO

Asian chess tourney draws 35-plus GMs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALL THE COUNTRY'S FIVE GRANDmaster chefs with at least 30 other GMs makes the Asian individual chess championship contest till the weigh an huge 35 at the Cebu International Convention Center in Cebu City.

GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Nelson Mariano II, Rong Villanueva and Mark Paragua will compete with some of the region's super GMs in the $60,000 event that hosted only those with Elo ratings of 2500 and above.

"China and India have already announced the participation of their players, meaning a strong field similar to that which took part when we last held the chess Olympiad in 1992," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Pidoy" Pichay.

Speaking at the Sunday Kampung session sponsored by Asiel and Nilstick, Pichay said the top 10 players will represent their region in the World Cup slated in November in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Other countries which have confirmed participation are Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Mongolia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"With the confirmation of these countries, the tournament has already been assured of at least 35 GMs," said Pichay.

Some 20 Filipino International Masters will also be seeking norms in the event, including 13-year-old sensation Wesley So.

Expected to take part are Chinese super GMs Wang Hao (2690), Bu Xiangzhi (2689), Li Chao (2681), Zhang Pengxiang (2649), Ye Jiangchuan (2632), Wang Yue (2626), Gibb Elmar Gusen Magbuos and Elbie Wooddfield of Iran, Stefano Sadaniel, F Heidarifam and Seyedeh Shekar Gosgeh of India, Ulzii Achmiz and Inzamus Mogonsem of Indonesia.

Aunzo amazes with fiery rally

Ties Fernando on top after qualifier

By Herwing R. Castillo

OLIVAS, CAVITE—FERDINAND AUNZO knocked on an improbable 66-foot putt for birdie on the fifth hole yesterday to complete a really frame three-shot-down in the final two holes and share top honors with Mark Fernando after the marathon 36-hole Technical Qualifiers.

The 27-year-old Aunzo sealed a one-over 72 with that stroke and then watched Fernando sink the same hole after finding the Orchid Golf Club greenside bunker.

They each teamed up with a 141 total to end the first two spots in the 80-spot.

Aunzo is one Jay Bayron barred one a 75 at the Bonanza's rough Legend course to finish in third spot at 143, with Anthony Fernando a stroke further adrift at 144 after a 74.

Jonel Abalos climbed the ranks to fifth slot, shooting a final-day 77 earned by a quadruple bogey 8 on No. 11 for 146. He closed eight shots in front of Michael Bibat, the lone Asian Games bronze medalist who fired a 75-154.

"It doesn't matter whether I won or lost today," the 24-year-old Abalos, who held co-lead at least a share of the lead since after the first 9-9 holes, told the Inquirer in Filipino.

"The important things I now have a chance to play for the country internationally."

Members of RP team that will play in the Nomura Cup in Taipei next month, the Four Cup at The Country Club in Laguna in November and the Eisenhower Trophy in Thailand in December with nine from the pool.

"Some of us have trained our whole lives for this chance," Aunzo, a former caddy at Forbes, said in Filipino.

Putra Cup veteran Tommy Manotoc, who bankrolled the training of Galongco bets Mark Fernando, Abalos and are others together with sportsman Hyonar Esguerra believes the country's team has a chance to regain the Putra Cup.

"Save for Bayron and Bibat, the only thing lacking in the team is international experience," Manotoc said. "But make no mistake about it, what the country has right now is a team that host a deep bench, as to speak."

Mark Fernando held a three-shot lead entering the final two holes. But he three-putted the 17th-hole, par-3 17th for bogey before dropping another shot on the 18th.

The Philippines last won the Putra Cup in 1991, with a team featured by Antonio Lascuña, Richard Siasoco, Roy Pagunsan and Gerard Custodio.

CLOSING for the grasp: Ferdinand Aunzo to a share of championship trophy.

Olympians, Hawks begin title clash

DEFIANCE VERSUS YOUTH makes an interesting subplot when UST and University of Manila collide today to open their Season opening doubleheader of Schools, Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (Siaap) basketball best-of-three championship series at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

The 37th Olympians, bowled up by veteran acquisitions from other schools, aimed turn their three straight championship appearance virtually hands-free.

"We are getting into shape and the rest of the team is starting here to play as one unit," said UST coach Pido Valentino.

The Olympians, runners-up to the UST Growling and Golden defending champion AMA Titans the past two seasons, is bannered by sophomores Dexter Silkstones, Bradley Lagunzad, Mike Calimquim and Rommel Mahinay.

But their backcourt will be manned by new recruits Raymond Tiongson, Mark Bulseny and Howard Flor. Tiongson and Bulseny come from NCAA squads Mapua and La Salle, respectively, while Flor is a product of the Far Eastern University in the UAAP.

"Compared to us, they are a very experienced team," said UM president Ronnie Atiko Ramos, who never misses a Hawks game. "Our players are relatively new and the majority came from the junior ranks."

At the backcourt of the Hawks' led to Hendry Waples, the 2004 season MVP and 2005 rookie Rookie of the Year and perennial Five nominee. The reliable Hapless will be supported by 6-foot guard Frank Romeo and rally playmaker Ramon Avendaño.

Cesare Bocales and AMA clash in a one-game showdown for the season's championship.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Miriam tossers, CKSC five out to boost streaks

MIRIAM COLLEGE, Chiang Kai Shek College, La Salle-College Antipolo and St. Scholastica's College aim to keep their win streaks alive today in the basketball and volleyball competitions of the 20th WNCAA games.

In the volleyball tournament, the RTE girls, Mariano Marcos squad eyes a third win against St. Francis of Assisi College (12-0, 10:30 a.m. while defending junior champion St. Scholastica's College, can rebut its three-match loss for win No. 4 at 12:30 p.m., also against St. Francis (0-12).

At the SSC gym where the basketball event is held, CKSC targets its fourth victory against Angelicum College (3-1) in the 9:30 a.m. opener while LSCA, holding a 2-0 mark, tackles St. Francis (0-2) at 2:30 p.m.

Other basketball matches set defending senior champion Miriam (2-1) against San Beda College Alabang (1-2) at 10 a.m., MBCA versus St. Scho in their debut matches next for 11:30 a.m., and St. Jude and St. Stephen's High school, both winless in two outings, at 1 p.m.

LSCA and De La Salle Zobel, meanwhile, race for at least solo second behind St. Scho in junior volleyball action. They collide in the first game at 7:30 a.m. Both squads are tied at 2-1.

Either St. Francis or SMBS, both at 0-2, would be out of the roller after their 11:30 a.m. junior volleyball matchup.

La Salle-Dasma repulses Acsat five

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE—THE LA Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots cruised to Mount Carmelite and Angel Salute to pull off a 89-68 victory last night to win over the Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings in the 5th University and Colleges Athletic Association (Uaca) men's basketball tournament in the Elsalvador gym.

A night by Anselmo and two free throws in buckets with 1:13 left in with it time broke out 89-all standoff and put the Patriots on top for good, 54-49.

Arnel dropped to 6-foot jaber as 5-2 while La Salle chance fourth place with Les Pilots College at 2-3.

St. Francis of Assisi remained in second place with its fourth victory in five starts after a 78-66 thrashing of Universal College of Nursing.

The Lightnings went all out to take the win in regulation play when Harvey Igos banded his team at 61-60 ignited with a spirited three-point in 14:2 seconds left.

But Salle took couple with a 2 strikes go, sending the contest to an extra five-minute period.

In men's volleyball, St. Francis rolled to its third straight win as it downed UCN, 20-26, 25-17, 25-16.

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo takes on Canoma boys in Petron volley league

ATENEO BATTLES CANOSSA ACADEMY of Lipa City today in an action-packed match in the Petron Intercollegiate Volleyball League at the College de Saint Jerome Sports Complex. Both have unbeaten runs in their first outing in Bicutan 6.

Angeles University plays against Cecilio School of Lila at 1:30 p.m. seeking a third straight win in Bicutan 2.

Or. Joseph's College runs its impressive 2-1 mark for Bicutan 8 when it clashes with St. Mary's EC at 1:00 p.m.

On Sunday, Jesus the Risk takes on St. Jude at 1:30 p.m. and then UNA at 4:30 in between. St. Francis of Assisi fangirls collides with St. Joseph-EC at 2:30 p.m.

The main game on Sunday will be at 6 as leader Christ School-QC (3-0) against St. Mary's at 3:30 p.m.

Interclub home-and-away tennis tourney underway

PHILIPPINE COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION (Pca) entry former RP Davis Cuppers Michael Mina and Jason Tobias, Ateneo team member Acropolis Tennis Club today in the 2007 Basketball Home-and-Away Interclub Team Tennis at the Acropolis gym.

Cobb Gonzalez spearheaded by former junior standouts Randy Villanueva, Dennis Santos and Randy Pagunsan, as does Mandaluyong Tennis Club while Mandaluyong Lawn Tennis Club, led by Junior Davis Cup and MVP Junior Championship veteran Mark Brana, tackles Celebrity Sports Club.

Tomorrow's matches are Celebrity against Mandaluyong Tennis Club while Pca will take on Acropolis Tennis Club.

NCFP exec chess begins

UNDER-25 OFFICER Philippine Collegiate Champions and International Master Albert Rivera head the list of players in the first of NCFP Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge which gets going today at Greenhouse Cafe at 25 Maginhawa Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

NCFP Executive Director Jayson Gilbert and co-prez RP Association champion Dr. Jimmy Bilagan are also playing in the event.

The Swiss system Active tournament will be played over seven rounds.

Gracing the opening ceremonies are NCFP officials and guests including International Arbiter Jayson Gonzales and International Arbiters Jeffrey Cabrera and Dominic Lily Ray, Makati V. Bolisoco.

Makati 5-cocker gets going

A POWERHOUSE GROUP OF GAMECOCK breeders from Northern Luzon challenges its Metro Manila counterparts starting at 6 p.m. today in the Cebu Mountain 5-Stag Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

Fabian Yap of Rizal Birds, owner of the first National Battalion 8-stag derby will host today's encounters.

Gearing up for battle today are Flash Juson, Arnaw Santos, Mediterranean Breeders, The Raven, Team Pacman group, Richard Salazar, Cebu Pacman group, Richard Salazar, Cebu Pacman group, Bicutan Cocks, Inc., Bicutan Cocks, Inc., Manila group, Randy Valentino, Tony Manford, Mauro Salvador Perez, Tony Del Rosario, Mr. Quasano, among others.

Stag Fest 2nd round today

POSSIBLE TWO OF ROLLOVER/DOUBLE COCK pits Mega Sentosa vs Ong Bentley tatlan salvan stage of 8 pens today at Bonanza 10 flight derby.

Also on elimination round the non-pullers after tallying 2 points each last Wednesday—Shelton Gaerlan with his entry Toto S. and Ramon Llorente, E. Garcia Brothers, Jr. Bandolas (Pit Chico), Cesar Pedrajas (Little Cesar), Jaime Valencia (Jaime Sevilla's Mustang Dinaulo (El Terrible), Rick Bautista (King Jerry), Robert Dimas (Rick Dimmick and Pinky Pedroza (Eddie Boy).

Host Rudy Ligon said the championship round will be held on Monday with 30 more participants feeding straight two stags.

SJC Cockers Club derby on

TOUGH MATCHUPS LOOM AT SAN JUAN Coliseum today as the SJC Cockers Club's Stag Derby comes kicks off with Bagsakan Complement 2000 as sponsor.

Nine bigger and stronger the SJC Cockers Club boards 30 members, including Patrick Bautista, Goodrich Pineda, Ray Bonoan, Dave Mendoza, Mayor Mayo Hidalgo, Rudy Mateo, Alex Bonoan, John Gaerlan, Danny Bautista, Bobby Bonoan, Tony Mendoza and Benny Lagos.

The group will host six derbies leading to the Staglighter of the Year. The championship round is set on May 31.

Norwood heads cast of future PBL stars

By Jasmine N. Payo

THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF STARS after all.

Amateur sensation Gabe Norwood heads the cast of foreign-born Filipino players expected to fill in the spots left by several PBL stalwarts who crossed over to the professional league last season.

Norwood expressed his intention to join the PBL after suiting up on a second-string wingspan for the San Miguel-BF squad in the FIBA Asia championships recently in Japan.

Along with the 6-foot-6 Norwood—who starred for George Mason University in the NCAA—several collegiate standouts are also keen on joining the rookie draft on Sept. 29 in the PBL office in Ortigas.

"The league lost a great number of its marquee players but I'm confident a new batch of exciting players will rise and take the spotlight," said league commissioner Chito Trinidad.

He noted that several foreign-born Filipinos have signified interest to see action in the International Cup set to start Oct. 27.

Also lured to sign up for the draft are UAAP and NCAA standouts such as Jason Martinez of the University of the East, Arnaiz's Jai Reyes, Eric Salamat and Ian Bacnis-an, Lei Jolli's Peejay Sinco, Rey Evidente's Mac Barwid, University of the Philippines' Woody Co and Mijo de Asis, San Sebi's Go-ro Lizarde and Jose Baid's John Villson.

"There are lots of talents around, so I'm confident we can discover new ones," said Trinidad, who downplayed the departures of stars drawn from the league, including Filipino rookies Jon Devanadera, picked first in the recent PBA draft, Semajon Eanes, Byron Reyes, JC Intal and Ren Rosco.

Players from the Visayas and Mindanao may submit their applications forms before the rookie camp on Sept. 26. Applicants must not have reached 27 years old as open-stop drawn from the league, including Filipino rookies.

Unlike in past seasons, the league will start conducting the draft only once a year.

"I refuse to join the running draft. [players] will have to wait for another year before they can play in the league," said PBL executive director Butch Manalo.

PBL'S TRUMP CARD Filipino-American Gabe Norwood

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH** and **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS**

Item No.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	Two (2) parcels of Industrial/Agricultural land, TCT No. 14,136 (a) & (b)	Amang Rodriguez Ave. cor. Dr. Sulmet St., Brgy. Mangalahan, Pasig City	P53,140,000.00
2	72, 464 sq.m. agricultural land	Sto. Patris, San Mateo, Rizal	P 1,811,600.00
3	88.38 square meters* lot with 3 storey corner townhouse	Unit 19, 8/F Commercial Condo. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City	P 3,750,000.00
4	1,051.5 sq.m. parcel of lot/Vacant	Sto. Rafa, Sta. Ana	P 2,102,000.00
5	66 sq.m. and 0 sq.m.(lot) storey bldg.	Salvador St., Sto. Cristo Subd., Pasig City	P 1,050,000.00

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check are to be received by the Special Assets Department (SPAD), 20th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Makati, Manila on **September 28, 2007**, not later than **12:00 nn.**

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 80% of the highest bid, the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. Julo Way or Tiffany starting September 10, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 20, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 20th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Manila.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as the legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the BPAD at telephone no. 891-2200 locals 2371, 2401, 7388, 2682, 7648.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Pacquiao sharpens powerful right hook

By Edwin L. Legamboy, Correspondent

BY MARCO ANTONIO BARNEDA ESPECTS

Manny Pacquiao to be the same fighter who dethrone a boxing fixer years ago, the Hall of Famer boxing promoter will be in for a surprise.

The Filipino ring icon, under the guidance of renowned trainer Freddie Roach, will use novel new weapons and techniques when he fights Hatton next year on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

Those who have seen Pacquiao train at the Wild Card Boxing Gym in Hollywood says the Filipino ring icon is working on a devastating right hook to knock Hatton out.

This week, the effort is already noticeable as Pacquiao is sparring with Mexicans Nonito Donaire and Israel Vazquez and Filipino Rey Bautista.

Pacquiao—taking the brunt of the heavy punches that also include hooks to the body and side of the head.

Pacquiao's conditioning coach, former two-division world champion Gerbo Boy Peñaloza, said the Gensan-MTV-Mel-tube-trained sparring partner is helping Pacquiao "develop a quick trip of rounds he has planned to do."

Roach has said that Pacquiao should have about 3,200 rounds of sparring before he leaves on Sept. 20 for Los Angeles, where he will make his ring return before landing on Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao—who created a quick trip to Manila today to finalize deals with a television company regarding his upcoming fight.

"He's leaving for Manila tomorrow," Roach told the Inquirer yesterday. "I'll accompany him but he'll be back immediately."

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

THE CEB—MACTAN BASECO RECLAMATION PROJECT (MRP-07-010)
Engineering Island, North of Cebu-Mactan Port Area, Manila

The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible contractors with valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and Invitation to Bid for the following contract:

Name of Contract	**CEB-06—MACTAN BASECO RECLAMATION PROJECT**
Location	Engineering Island, North of Cebu-Mactan Port Area, Manila
Brief Description	The Project will reclaim a total area of 84+/-ha. The reclamation activities of the project will include sand dredging, vessel maintenance and operation, land transportation, sand spreading, soil improvement (PVD), construction of revetment, and other ancillary activities. The Project is estimated to be completed within a period of 1,095 calendar days. The Project will be undertaken on the basis of a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Agreement between the Philippine Reclamation Authority and the Contractor.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**Two Billion Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 2,200,000,00)**. Philippine currency.
Contract Duration	1,095 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License and Category in Large A or Medium A, have completed a similar contract and a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have the minimum working capital equivalent to the Eligibility Check procedure to be conducted by the BAC using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All bidders are invited to Eligibility Statement and Reviewing Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is stated as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 10, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 24, 2007 2:00 p.m./Monday	PRA Conference Room (Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ
3. Submission/ Opening of Bids	October 10, 2007 2:00 p.m./Wednesday	BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents are not available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,000.00** for Lot I and **P1,000.00** each for Lots II to VI to the UBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 229, Manpower Road, SBFZ.

The UBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALMANZO
BAC Chairman

SEAG athletes down to 495

By Jaro Mesano

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Games Task Force has pruned down the list of athlete-candidates to 495 from the 600 level that the budget committee fixed for the participation of the RP delegation on constrained ties.

Commissioner Alex Urbiztondo of the Philippine Sports Commission is convinced that from 495 aspirants, the figure will be brought down to 402, all of whom would likely leave their mark in the 24th Southeast Asian Games on Dec. 6-15.

Meanwhile, PSC commissioner Leon Montañano Jr. is also pleased for having received a formal communication from Malacañang stating that his contract as sports czar has been accepted.

"My tradition of not carrying resignation in my hip pocket did not shall know if or have been appointed or not," he said.

sbm

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. 200, Manpower Bl., Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines 2222
Telefax (047) 252-6113 to 252-6120 loc. 7142 (047) 252-6113/6114

SBMA-BAC-IBB-11-07
Various Equipment
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites supplier/contractor/manufacturer/distributor/consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the transaction items:

Lot #	Items to Bid	Approved Budget Cost (ABC)
LOT I	Various Air-conditioning Units for SBMA Departments	P 1,164,105.00
LOT II	Various Construction Supplies	P 1,773,914.30
LOT III	Civil and Land Surveying	P 1,419,676.80
LOT IV	Various Traffic Signages	P 1,251,056.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned supplies and equipments for bidding, must have proof of completion for the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the procurement project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants relative to the Eligibility Statement and Reviewing Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is stated as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 10 - 21, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 24, 2007 2:00 p.m./Monday	PPMD Conference Room, Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ
3. Submission/ Opening of Bids	October 10, 2007 2:00 p.m./Wednesday	BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 301, Bldg. 200, Manpower Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents are not available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,000.00** for Lot I and **P1,000.00** each for Lots II to VI to the UBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 229, Manpower Road, SBFZ.

The UBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALMANZO
BAC Chairman

PSALM
Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization Bids and Awards Committee (the "Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package consisting of the 192.5-MW Pagbilao Coal-fired Power Plant located in Pagbilao, Quezon, Philippines, and the 1 x 600-MW Panay Diesel Power Plant located in Nabas, Aklan

(the "Assets"). The Assets is being offered on an "as is-where is" basis and will include a power supply agreement. The Committee reserves the right at any time prior to the Documentary Bid Validation Deadline (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) to add to, delete from, or change any of the Assets. PSALM will be the subject of the bid (see) process of both the Pagbilao Coal Plant and the Panay Plant. The Pagbilao Coal Plant is the Panay Plant assets.

Interested parties must purchase a bidding package ("Bidding Package") from the Committee which shall state the bid terms, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at 5th Floor, Philippine Columbian Association Building, 97 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines on or before **5:00 p.m. on 17 September 2007** (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Assets.

An accompaniment to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement with the Committee. The Bidding Package shall be sold for a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred Thousand (P500,000.00) and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,000.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check, and in Philippine Currency. Only LOIs with the Participation Fee and the Confidentiality Agreement duly executed by the interested party shall be considered by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2007** (the "Bidding Package Deadline"). No Bidding Package shall be released after the Bidding Package Deadline.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **17 September until 28 September 2007** (the "Duration") in the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who demonstrate around the Bidding Package to the satisfaction of the Committee and who have paid the Participation Fee shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the bid situation and must submit its bid and enter into the purchase agreement. Only an interested party can enter the Confidentiality Agreement and its bidding and pass the Participation Fee. Such interested party may not change its composition or its bidding structure without the consent of the Committee. Any change in the composition or the bidding structure, including the assignment of rights, without the prior written consent of the Committee, among the members of such pre-qualified party must be at least equal to 51% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium. At the consortium must be at least 51% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium. All the consortium members must enter into a Joint Bidding Agreement, in form and substance satisfactory to the Committee, and submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Bid Diligence	17 September 2007 to 3 December 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	26 September 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at Bldg. 6 Office
Bid Submission Deadline	5 December 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to time dates and times shall be dated or Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day or Public Day.

A non-refundable bidding bidder shall be accepted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Eight Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.$8,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted with a performance security guarantee amount. Bidders shall undertake performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Assets are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Participation shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 5th Floor, Philippine Columbian Association Building, 97 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines. Attention: Mr. Felan S. Tanseco II of the PSALM Office or at (office) number (632) 632-6325 or e-mail address fstanseco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proponent or bids therefrom, at any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any responsibility to any party for any expenses incurred by the proponent in the preparation of its proposal. It has no obligation to interested parties to disclose or cure any deficiency in the proposal submitted. It reserves the right to modify, supplement or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time. Although the Committee will consult interested parties on any material amendment to the Bidding Procedures, it reserves the right to make such amendments without prior notice and without good and sufficient cause. Interested parties and the bidding will be notified promptly as to the nature of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) ANGELO T. REYES
Chairman
Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

SPORTS

Djokovic a serious threat

Comical Serbian reaches first US Open semifinal

NEW YORK—NOVAK DJOKOVIC OF SERBIA beat Spaniard Carlos Moya, 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-1, at the US Open on Thursday to reach his third consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

Facing a set point in a tight tiebreaker, No. 5 Djokovic kept dribbling the ball, bouncing it 16 times in all.

Eventually, he tossed the ball over head—and hit a lob. Djokovic ace his way to 13 winners, hit a 133 mph (202 kph) second serve, and won the point.

"This is just a matter of concentration. I'm trying to really listen and not irritate anybody [here] if I'm a bit annoying," Djokovic said. "The thing is, I want to stay longer on this court, so that's why I'm bouncing more and more."

Predictably, a TV interviewer, Djokovic stuck around after the match to cover the line to two of his impressions of other players. First he did his take on Maria Sharapova, then Rafael Nadal, both to loud laughs from the crowd.

"It's funny. He does it very well. That's a gift," Moya said, referring to Djokovic's mimicry. "If he doesn't succeed in tennis, he has a career in that."

"I enjoyed it," Djokovic said. "I'm really happy the people accepted it in a positive way and trying to make fun of Maria or Rafa or anybody else, just trying to make people laugh and enjoy and have a good time."

The third seed whose name is aptly pronounced "Joke-o-vic" used his skills at rising-ground maneuvers first on Sharapova, tracking in his direction, skipping and bouncing beyond the baseline, then arching out his chest as he walked.

From the baseline, Djokovic mimicked the Russian beauty's by slowly smoothing back his hair over each ear, then lifting his arm and bouncing the ball high before lifting off a serve.

To impersonate Nadal, Djokovic rolled up the sleeves of his shirt, bent over to adjust his shoes, crazed in the baseline and repeatedly grabbed and tugged at his shorts.

Those are just some of the things I usually do to make people laugh. This is one of the ways I like to relax and smile," said Djokovic.

Asked if there was a player he had yet to master copying, Djokovic named the same player he has yet to master on the court—Swiss world No. 1 Roger Federer.

"The one I cannot do is one... Roger, he's too good for me to imitate [with] his game. I don't have long hair. I hope he doesn't hear this."

Unlike at the French Open, where he lost to Nadal, and at Wimbledon, where he quit because of an injury while losing to Nadal, Djokovic will finally face a different foe.

In Saturday's semifinals, he'll meet No. 15 David Ferrer—who just happens to be the man who ate Nadal supped in the Open's fourth round. Ferrer reached his first major semifinal by beating No. 26 Juan Ignacio Chela, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5, Thursday. AFP/AFP

SLEEVES rolled up and shorts pulled down as he exaggerates laugh: That's Marat Djokovic doing his Rafael Nadal impersonation. AFP/AFP

DA enforces PRC ban on imported Australian horses

By Myaong B. Castillo and Amy E. Remo

AFTER THE PHILIPPINE RACING Commission, the Department of Agriculture has also ordered an indefinite ban on the importation of racehorses from Australia because of the outbreak of the Equine Influenza (EI).

The ban came through a memorandum issued by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and at the heels of the EI outbreak that was reported in Centennial Park in Sydney, New South Wales last Aug. 24.

Equine influenza is a strain of virus belonging to the same group of viruses that causes human flu and flu-like symptoms in horses.

Philracom chair Patricio Dantes was the first to impose a ban after Randwick, site of the most advanced racetrack Down Under, was shut down two weeks ago when four horses were found to be running high temperatures.

"Until such time that the Australian authorities declare that the problem [EI outbreak] is solved, the ban will be in place," Dantes said. "It is a drastic step, but we have to be able to do whatever is necessary so that this problem does not reach our shores."

The Philracom, in cooperation with Australian authorities, already stopped a shipment of about 35 racehorses which were supposed to arrive last Sept. 5.

Right now, more than 75% of all imported horses competing in the local tracks have come from Australia.

Millions of dollars will be lost each day as Australia's ride for bans is in place as 600 horses belonging to 53 other stables have now shown symptoms of the disease.

Yap said in the memorandum that there is a need to prevent the entry of Australian horses to protect the health of the local equine population.

According to the University of Sydney, the contagious disease can be spread easily through nasal discharge and from things like infected brushes and rags.

It was also reported that there is almost a 100 percent infection rate in a population that has been previously unexposed to the virus.

Yap has ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry to immediately suspend the processing, evaluation of the application and the issuance of the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance to import horses from Australia.

Ferrari tops Monza practice; 'spy' case takes a new twist

MONZA, ITALY—KIMI RAIKKONEN TOPPED the times for Ferrari on Friday morning's opening practice for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, the 27-year-old Finn outpacing teammate Felipe Massa by one-tenth of a second.

The 6-hour morning at the famous old Monza circuit, the two Ferrari drivers set the pace ahead of Jenson Button—champion Lewis Hamilton, who was third fastest, and defending drivers' world champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso, fourth.

Off the circuit, the two teams are caught in a new twist surrounding the "spy story" that has overshadowed much of this season.

According to the latest report in Italian media, McLaren, it is claimed, has been not only in possession of many of Ferrari's technical secrets this year, but also using them to its advantage. This, it is said, is the revelation drawn from the latest evidence presented to the sport's ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA). AFP

SO PEACE in the sound gives visitors a peek at the Philippine underwater world.

Philippine dive sites make a splash in Beijing exhibit

By Jasmine W. Paya

BEIJING—AT THE HEART OF THE exhibit hall of the 2007 China Olympic exhibition is a luminous underwater photo mural that never fails to captivate visitors.

The mural is an image-based invitation to take a plunge in the Philippine seas. And judging by the queue in the beautiful blue hooks on the exhibition, indigenous are that this mural is doing its job in far in drawing the curiosity of foreign divers.

"Diving is a recreational sport, you need physical fitness to support your safety," said Filipino-Chinese dive master Ding Dang Ha.

"[W]e are now promoting diving in the Philippines." So that people will realize that we have such beauty in the country and it will be protected."

The mix of sports and tourism may potentially turn into one of the country's dawning passions—as last year, one of its economic top generators.

Divers visiting the Philippines contribute an average of $1 billion each, this is due to the rich and varied underwater scenery" Jazmin Esguerra, tourism attaché of the Philippine embassy in China, said during the exhibition, an international trade exhibit, conference and networking event held here.

And there's good reason the Philippines stand to build on the architecture of mainland China's diving community.

"China has a billion in population, but their total number of divers is just 30,000; they're just starting," noted Simon Ee, a full-time dive guide and onsite instructor accredited by the international Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

"We need to promote ourselves more and create the interest that the Philippines is an ideal dive site for them."

The Philippines has more than 600 dive sites including the Tubbataha Reef and Honda Bay in Palawan, Anilao in Batangas, Puerto Galera in Mindoro and Malapascua in Cebu.

There are also 25 shipwreck sites in the country that most adventurous divers can explore.

"The Philippines can be the best dive destination for those interested to start learning the sport," noted Esguerra.

And expert divers guarantee that anyone can easily make a splash in the diving scene.

"It's easier to learn diving than to learn how to skateboard," said Ee.

But admitting the required levels of physical and mental competence is also important.

"You also have to take a course," said Ee. "Alot of people say that learning how to dive is like learning to drive a car. If you know how to snorkel, you can take an introductory diving course and go down to 25 feet. But in diving, there's also the physics on the expansion of liquid and air. There are lessons."

Divers assured, though, the course is not as intimidating as it sounds.

"It's very fun actually," said Ee. "Since we're not born to be under the water, there are things we just have to learn."

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BUSINESS

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Forex reserves breached $30-B mark in Aug.

Shares rise on mining interest

See main story on Page B2

Investment inflows, remittances offset flight of 'hot money'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES BREACHED the $30-billion mark in August despite the global financial volatility that tempered the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' dollar purchases during the month.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that the country's gross international reserves surged to $30.3 billion last month, or $2.3 billion higher than the level as of end-July.

The latest figure has exceeded the BSP's revised projected GIR range of $30 billion announced only last Friday.

"Sustained foreign exchange inflows enabled the BSP to build up its reserves level while at the same time service its debt and those of the national government's," Tetangco said.

"Receipts of income from investment abroad also contributed to the increase in the GIR level," he said.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy. It consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights (the currency used by the International Monetary Fund).

In terms of reserve adequacy, the current GIR level can cover 5.6 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income. It is also equivalent to 5.8 times the country's short-term external debt.

The GIR rose last month despite net outflows of foreign investments in stocks and

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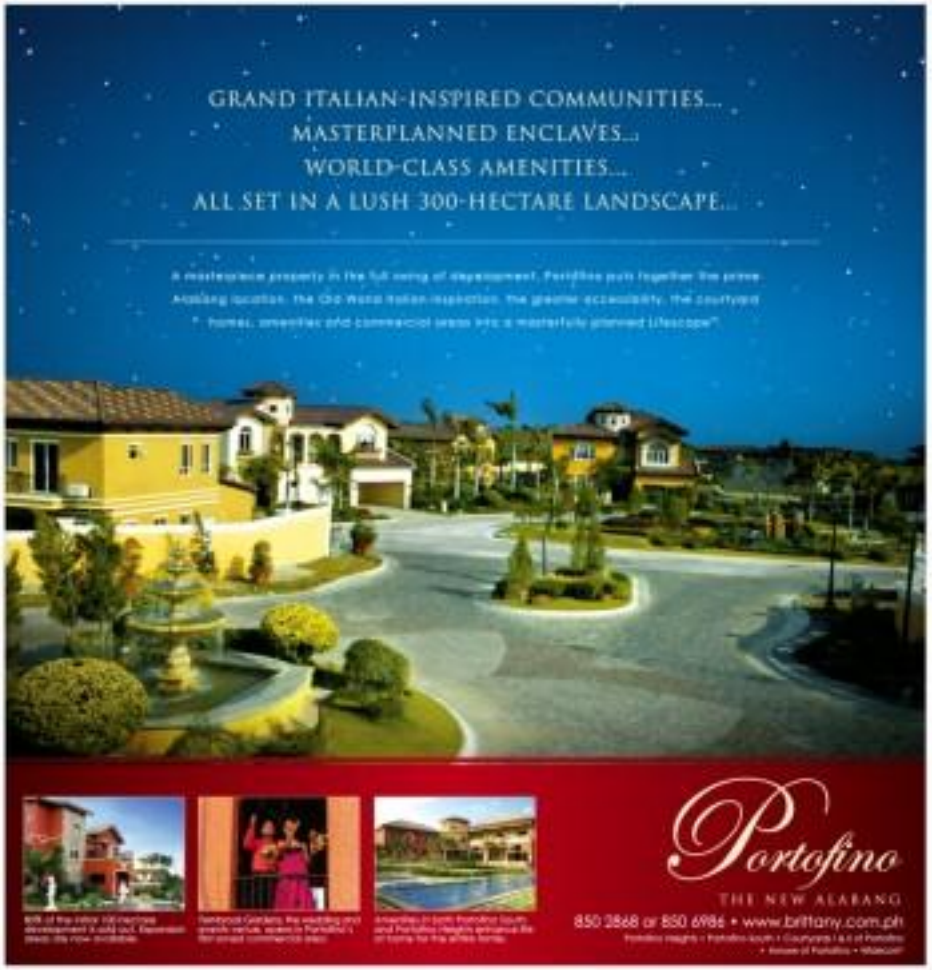

Sale of remaining stake in PNOC-EDC approved

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BOARD OF PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. has approved the sale of the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PNOC-EDC company information officer Imelda Rocio said the PNOC board approved during its Sept. 1 meeting the sale of 6 billion common and 4.5 billion preferred shares in PNOC-EDC.

"The state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines would serve as financial adviser for the sale, he said.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarita Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would help for the government between P12 billion and P30-billion.

Foreign investors Angelo Bayen had earlier said there was actually an option to complete the PNOC-EDC sales by the first or second quarter of 2008 instead of this year, but President Macapagal-Arroyo gave specific directives to complete the sale before year's end.

Another PNOC subsidiary is being prepared for privatization this year.

PNOC Exploration Corp. is considering three methods by which it can be privatized, including a public offering, strategic sale and private placements.

In a presentation to Mr Arroyo last month, PNOC-EC said it was more inclined to go the public offering route given the strong performance of the Philippine Stock Exchange as well as good local and international investor sentiment toward the market.

Since PNOC-EC is already listed on the local bourse, it can just issue additional shares to allow it to raise more funds through the capital market and at the same time move toward privatization.

The PNOC subsidiary said the issuance of additional shares would also be the easiest privatization method to pursue since it would take only four to six months to complete the share offer.

The secondary share sale would likewise add liquidity to the company and provide more value to PNOC-EC shares, it added.

Former PNOC president and new PNOC-EDC chair Pedro Aquino Jr. had earlier said that PNOC-EC planned to increase public ownership to no more than 49 percent variously in the year or the first quarter of 2008 through a secondary offering.

PNOC-EC has only about 3.7 percent of its shares held by the public, he said.

The planned secondary offering could be separate from the earlier broadened private placement strategy of PNOC-EC, which involved selling 49 percent of the state firm's 18-percent stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project.

Gov't seen to generate P32-P36B

Filinvest to issue 3.5B shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP. is venturing into new growth sectors such as manufacturing and biofuels.

FDC currently has interests in real estate, commercial development and banking.

To help raise funds for its planned investments, FDC gained approval from shareholders yesterday to issue up to 3.5 billion common shares by way of a primary and secondary offer with an option to also offer convertible bonds.

The timetable for the issuance of the shares has not yet been set.

"We have everything ready but we are just waiting for the market to be receptive. The market is quite volatile right now," FDC president Josephine Gotianun said.

Top said FDC would use the proceeds from the share issue to expand its newly acquired sugar mills and refineries, put up an ethanol plant, for its planned acquisition in biofuels, increase the capital of its banking arm East West Bank, and invest in other projects related to property and commercial development.

Over the next five years, FDC is spending P36 billion for various projects, including subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc.'s projects, the total capital expenditures may hit P50-billion.

FDC had said it was dipping its hands into the manufacturing business with the acquisition of Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp. from Andrew L. Gotianun (A&G) Holdings Corp., owner of Pacific Sugar and the private holding firm of the property magnate.

Yesterday, stockholders ratified FDC's proposed acquisition of Burgos Sugar through a share swap deal. Pacific Sugar was valued at P15.3 billion by Mendoza Amagoitia & Co., a member of the auditing firm KPMG.

Pacific Sugar owns sugar milling and refinery companies Granberg Sugar General Co. Inc. (Generose) and Bais Sugar Central Co. Inc. (Transcentral) and sugar planting firm High Yield Sugar Farms Corp.

Generose was acquired by Pacific Sugar in 2002. FDC plans to expand the capacity of Generose's Calatrava mill to 6,500 metric tons a day by 2008 from the current 5,000 MT.

The refinery capacity will also be raised to produce 12,000 bags of sugar a day starting this year.

Transcentral was established in 1970 and was acquired by Pacific Sugar in 2005. By 2008, Transcentral's milling capacity will be expanded to 6,500 metric tons a day from the current 3,000 MT. Its refining capacity will also be increased to 7,000 bags a day from 4,000 bags a day by the same period.

FDC plans to put up an ethanol plant in Mindanao to take advantage of the implementation of the biofuels law.

The plant, which may cost between P600 million and P800 million, will produce up to 180,000 liters of fuel a day by 2009.

RA 9367 or the biofuels law mandates a 5-percent bioethanol blending into gasoline by 2009 when local demand for the fuel is seen to reach 269 million liters a year.

By 2011, local demand is seen growing to 594 million liters a year with a 10-percent blend mandated during that year.

To meet demand, an estimated 15 to 20 ethanol plants will have to be set up throughout the country.

Forex reserves breached $30-B mark in Aug.

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bonds. The renewed aversion to assets from emerging markets like the Philippines was triggered by concerns over rising delinquencies in the US subprime housing market.

Subprime mortgages are loans made to borrowers with imperfect or limited credit histories and little equity. The ripples have spread across the globe as investors banks took big hits from structured financial products with underlying assets connected to these subprime mortgages.

"Due to the risk aversion factor, the BSP eased its dollar-for-peso swap activity in the onshore swap market to ensure adequate funds liquidity," Citigroup economist Jun Trinidad said in an Aug. 30 market review.

Trinidad said there were less dollar forwards being sold by the BSP to August, implying the following:

- lower spot market dollar purchases and thus less need to worry about excessive money supply growth; and
- predictions are in still over-reacting dollar forward reservoirs.

The country's savings foreign reserve build up has been augmented by remittances from overseas Filipino workers, foreign direct investment and portfolio investments. These inflows allowed the BSP to become a heavy buyer of dollars as the Philippine Trading System prior to the global volatility seen in August.

In previous months, the BSP intensified the use of foreign currency swaps in mop up excessive foreign inflows. Based on the latest BSP data, its outstanding currency swap liability declined to P3.63 billion in mid-June from the end-May level of P38.06 billion.

"With the peso falling against the US dollar as risk aversion persists alongside expectations of net portfolio outflows, BSP was probably in a dollar net selling mood during July, both of which became less urgency to sterilize liquidity via the swaps," Trinidad said.

Shares rise...

From page B1

There were 62 gainers and 39 losers, while 31 stocks were unchanged.

The all-share index edged up 1.77 points to 2,317.28.

Analysts said caution prevailed ahead of the graft court's verdict on deposed President Joseph Estrada's corruption trial due next week.

Estrada, who was toppled by a popular uprising in 2001, still enjoys the support of many poor Filipinos and a conviction could stir up unrest.

"Investors are in a wait-and-see mode. The question mark is how the market will react to the Estrada verdict next week, and whether his supporters will accept a guilty verdict peacefully," said Jesse Varcas of SB Capital Securities.

Philex mining shares jumped 70 centavos to P6.28, breaking gains in the mining and oil sector which advanced 0.1 percent.

Philex reported Wednesday its net profit for the first seven months of 2007 more than doubled to P3.1 billion due to higher metal prices and volumes sold.

Cosgeon Resources Philippines Inc. rose 20 centavos to P1.78 while Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. advanced 75 centavos to P14.50.

Bargain-hunters, meanwhile, dumped Bank of the Philippine Islands, which rose P1.50 to P65.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the nation's biggest company by market value, fell P20 to P3,780.

AFP

CURRENCIES

September 1, 2007 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.02439	1.000000	46.0000
Japan	Yen	0.00210	0.008611	0.3960
United Kingdom	Pound	1.47443	0.024000	67.8420
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.00310	0.128000	5.8880
Switzerland	Franc	0.00199	0.815000	37.5040
Canada	Dollar	0.00429	0.875000	40.2500
Singapore	Dollar	0.00301	0.616000	28.3360
Australia	Dollar	0.00401	0.821000	37.7660
Taiwan	Dollar	0.00000	0.030000	1.3800
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.00650	0.266000	12.2360
Kuwait	Dollar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Thailand	Baht	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
UAE	Dirham	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Qatar	Riyal	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Kuwait	Dinar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Bahrain	Dinar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Oman	Rial	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Sweden	Krona	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000
Taiwan	Dollar	0.00000	0.000000	0.0000

New president takes over Petron helm

By Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESS leader Ocean Corp. has named Kamal Al Fadhyn as its new president, taking over the reins from Khalid Al Fadhigh who has served the oil firm since August 1981.

AL-HAYYA

Al Hayya comes in from with more than 20 years of experience in the oil industry, working for Saudi Aramco, which holds a 40-percent stake in Petron.

Prior to this assignment, he was head of exploration operations at Saudi Aramco, where he was tasked with acquiring and processing seismic data, as well as other processes relevant to oil and gas exploration.

Apart from his Saudi Aramco post, he also sits on the board of South Refi Al-Riah—a joint venture among Saudi Aramco, Royal Dutch Shell Group and Total SA—which refines diesel gas production in Saudi Arabia.

Al Hayya holds a doctorate degree in geophysics from Stanford University and a master's degree in the same industry at the University of California.

Mining Petron's future plans are the commissioning of a 30,000-barrels-a-day Penex Catalytic Cracking unit by early next year and the commissioning of a RTE unit by the fourth quarter of 2008.

Filipino farmers receive $2.59-M grant from Japan

THE 180-MILLION YEN JAPAN GRANT assistance for underprivileged farmers was formally turned over to the Philippines on Thursday, signaling the full implementation of the fertilizer assistance to poor Filipino farmers.

The grant, worth roughly $2.59 million, is also known as the 2006 or the formally named grant.

A simple but historic ceremony was held in Roxas City attended by stakeholders and government officials from both Japan and the Philippines.

Through the National Agricultural and Fishery Council, the Department of Agriculture has already started distributing to small rice farmers 18,607 metric tons of ammonium sulphate fertilizer.

This volume came from the first two tranches of fertilizer shipments, which arrived last July 24 and Aug. 3 and forms part of the 13,887 metric tons procured under the Japanese grant, signed last December.

A total of 40,000 farmers in the grant program and reimbursable with the Japan International Cooperation System is supplying the farm inputs to poor farmers.

The fertilizer shipments has benefited palay farmers living below the poverty line, particularly those from Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental and Camarines Sur. Amy R. Remo

8 suppliers take part in NFA bid to boost rice stock

By Amy R. Remo

AT LEAST EIGHT SUPPLIERS JOINED the tender for the supply of 300,000 metric tons of long grain while the conducted yesterday by the National Food Authority.

This volume brings total rice imports for 2007 to 1.611 million metric tons.

Bid offers revealed saw prices between $390 and $393.23 per metric ton, cost and freight (C&F).

The bidding, which followed strict requirements under Republic Act 9184, was observed by various representatives from government agencies, like the Commission on Audit and the Philippine International Trading Center, as well as representatives of organizations of farmers, retailers and consumers.

The NFA received offers from Thai Hua, Sathorn Rice, LG International, Tongfar International, Asia Golden Rice, Olam International, Vinafood and Chemtex International.

LG International offered US$345 a metric ton for the supply of 50,000 metric tons, which would be sourced from Thailand.

Asia Golden Rice has the same price offer for the supply of 25,000 metric tons, which would also come from Thailand.

Meanwhile, Vinafood offered $331 a metric ton and 8,055 a metric ton for the supply of 50,000 metric tons from Vietnam and 80,000 metric tons from Thailand and Pakistan.

Forty percent of the tendered rice shall reach the country's ports in Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro this month, while the remaining balance must be in the country by October this year.

Validity of offers is five working days from the bidding date.

The additional rice is intended to boost rice stocks, following the prolonged dry spell which had adversely affected the country's rice producing regions.

It is also from those imports that the NFA has partly sourced the additional volumes it is currently distributing in certain areas.

Just this week, NFA increased by half the volume of government rice distributed in Metro Manila and nearby Regions 3 and 4 to prevent unwarranted increases in price.

According to NFA, the average daily volume distributed to the National Capital Region is around 30,000 bags (50 kg.) while Region 3 has an allocation of 20,000 bags and Region 4, 15,000 bags.

Total additional volume would be 85,000 bags a day. This brings total average daily allocation for the three regions to 145,000 bags.

There is, however, no definite date per se on when the volume would be reduced to its normal levels.

According to NFA administrator Jessup G Navarro, this move is part of the agency's effort to forestall the percent trend in the prices of commercial rice in the market.

Government rice is sold at P16.6 kilo through government outlets, including the Fertilizer State, Bigasan, Bayan, and accredited private retail outlets.

Poll tracks rise in consumer outlook

But pessimists still outnumber optimists in latest BSP survey

By Doris C. Dantes

EVEN THOUGH THE OVERALL consumer confidence level has improved among low-income groups, there are still more pessimists than optimists out there, according to the third quarter consumer expectations survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Based on the latest quarterly survey, the country's consumer confidence index improved to 22.6 percent in the third quarter from 2.6 percent in the previous quarter. This means that out of every 10 households, those who are bearish about economic and financial conditions outnumber those who are bullish by two.

"Although the index is still negative, the number of optimists is rising number of optimistic consumers compared to the last quarter's level," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said the more upbeat consumer outlook for the current quarter was buoyed up by favorable economic conditions, higher family incomes, and better family financial conditions.

"Consumers attributed the favorable economic outlook to the strength of the peso, stable prices of goods and services and opportunities," Tetangco said.

"The improvement in overall outlook was felt most keenly by low income consumers...with monthly income of less than P10,000,—who anticipated less inflation and job security during the third quarter," he said.

Household finances are expected to improve due to the employment of more family members, salary increases, an expected business upturn and higher savings, the BSP chief added.

"For the first time in the past 10 quarters, even those in the low-income groups were optimistic that the country's economic conditions and family financial conditions will be better in the next 12 months," Tetangco said.

The BSP's latest quarterly survey, conducted from July 2 to July 27, with a sample size of 1,000 households across the country also showed that more families anticipate better economic conditions in the fourth quarter as the net quarter to quarter turned positive at 6.1 percent.

A positive confidence index means that there are more consumers who are upbeat than those who are skeptical.

The net balance index for the next 12 months also jumped to 7.9 percent from 1.8 percent in the previous quarter's survey.

For the next three months, consumers expect spending on basic goods will rise in progress. Also, the housing index in the survey showed improvement in terms with higher confidence indices were those on food, clothing and footwear, electricity, fuel and transportation.

A majority of respondents also indicated better prospects of buying consumer durables, motor vehicles and residential properties over the next three to 12 months.

For the first time since the BSP conducted the quarterly consumer expectations survey in 2006, the third quarter index for the National Capital Region turned positive at 1.6 percent, which indicated that majority of consumers were optimistic about the future for the next three months.

SAN MIGUEL WELCOMES VIETNAM PRIME MINISTER

San Miguel Corp. chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. (right) shares a toast with Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to appreciation for his Vietnam government's support of SMC operations in that country. During their stay in the Philippines, the Prime Minister and his delegation visited other Filipino corporations with presence in Vietnam. SMC hosted a party for their benefit at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

Tap new markets outside US, buyers urge local exporters

By Bonnie W. Domingo

THE FOREIGN BUYERS' ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (Fobap) has urged exporters to take advantage of the strong peso by tapping new markets outside the United States, especially China.

Manuel Melgar, head of Fobap's training department, said Filipino exporters could also take advantage of the opportunities in other countries by tapping into their markets.

"Local exporters should focus on the home furnishings, fashion accessories, and holiday-items markets of Central and Eastern Europe, South America and China—aside from the United States—as these countries provide huge opportunities for them," Melgar said.

"Exporters should do tariff to rethink and reconsider opportunities that abound in China due to the country's economic boom and the increasing inclination to high-end furniture and furnishings retail stores in to key cities that need unique hand-crafted accessories," he added.

He cited industry data which showed that Chinese furniture exports grew by an average of 26.5 percent annually in reaching $16 billion from 2000 to 2005, showing opportunities for raw material suppliers here.

Melgar said the furniture industry in China covers some 13,000 manufacturers that employ to some 45 million people.

He added that it was important for exporters to understand clearly the import regulations in Eastern Europe and understand the designs—especially for furniture and fashion accessories—that appeal to the European market.

As for the US market, he said local companies should be aware of special occasions and anniversary celebrations observed throughout the year, especially the constant spring revival/fall retreat program.

"Furniture designs that are seasonal that would be used in set-ups should be appropriate for the season," he said.

Melgar said there was a growing demand for outdoor furniture, and demand for new designs of lighting items, flowers, wallpaper products, wall decorations, furniture, tableware accent pieces was rising as well.

He said natural fibers, shells and other indigenous materials should be rounded to meet the demands of today's discriminating consumers.

Melgar put forward his suggestions as the exporter prepared for the Manila FAME International trade fair, which is the country's premier exhibition for SMEs in the home furnishings, housewares, gifts, holiday décor and fashion accessories sectors.

Manila FAME is the only trade fair in the country recognized by the international association of the world's leading trade show organizers and fairground owners in the exhibition industry—Union des Foires Internationales (UFI).

STI secures 25-yr Global City lease from BCDA

THE BASIC EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT Authority yesterday said it signed with Systems Technology Institute a 25-year lease of a Bonifacio Global City lot, from which BCDA would earn at least P184.6-million.

BCDA vice president Aileen Zona said in an interview that STI planned to build on the property a P257.6-million, eight-story educational complex.

Zona said the agreement covered the lease, development and operation of the 2,650-square-meter Campos Gateway property on 32nd Street, across the Fort Bonifacio Market Mall.

BCDA is planning to bid in the Singapore and Philippine stock exchanges next year, proposed to develop a school complex which would have facilities for information technology, healthcare, and business and hotel and restaurant management.

The building, which would take a year to finish, would also have executive and academic offices as well as facilities for call centers and business process outsourcing services.

"The lease would help in revenue for BCDA of P184.6 million quarterly, which would be increased by 10 percent every five years," Zona said. "Also, BCDA shall have a 5-percent share in food revenues and 2 percent in nonfood revenues from the development of the property."

Zona said BCDA was confident that such a project, involving a "credible and financially capable proponent like STI," would further enhance the development of Bonifacio Global City, a 24-hour business district in Metro Manila.

Marston L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, had said the agency expected completion of 51 projects in the area between 2006 and 2007.

Aboard the upswing in the real estate industry was sustaining the rapid growth of development in Bonifacio Global City.

He said a total of 51 projects were here, or are expected to be, completed within the year, including residential towers like Serendra, Arthaland Heights, Kensington, Bellagio, Fairways, South of Market, Mills Avenue Place. Bernard R. Borningo

Yet another bill seeks to remove grant of income tax holiday

By Michelle V. Ramos

ANOTHER BILL SEEKING TO ABOLISH income tax incentives has been prepared.

Senate Bill 1716, or the comprehensive reform to update the five-year old proposed.

The bill, prepared by Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, seeks to phase out the granting of income tax holidays.

"The sentiment of the Philippine investment system, which is their reliance on holiday CITs, is the most redundant type of tax incentive," Javier said. "It is about time this government seriously rethink this CIT policy that it has adopted for so long."

The DOF has been pushing for the lifting of the ITH. Investors should be given either an fledgling industries or foreign companies that are critical to investment in the country, the DOF said.

Finance officials have explained that start-up industries do not yet earn income during the first few years of implementation, and so they do not have any use for the ITH.

Big companies, on the other hand, take into account other factors, such as favorable regulatory environment and infrastructure in investing. Giving ITH to large firms would therefore be redundant, the DOF said.

Under the bill, which is supported by the Department of Finance, ITH shall be granted only in exporters.

A three-year ITH shall be granted to export enterprises registering on the first year of effectivity of the bill, while only a two-year ITH shall be granted to those registering on the second year of effectivity. A one-year ITH shall be granted to those registering on the third year of effectivity.

Other incentives available for export-oriented enterprises include net operating loss carryover (nolco), accelerated depreciation and exemption from wharfage dues.

Under the bills, loses during the first five years of operations may be deducted from gross income for the next five years following the years of such loss. Under accelerated depreciation, firms may deduct from its taxable income the amount of depreciation of its capital equipment earlier than the time of actual depreciation.

In pushing for his bill, Javier noted that the government has been losing substantial revenue every year due to incentives that are deemed redundant.

Javier cited a study by Senate Bendix, professor from the University of the Philippines, which said that 85 percent of the incentives granted by the Board of Investments are redundant.

The mandates is about P47 billion in lost potential revenues a year, Javier said.

"The P47 billion is redundant tax incentives could have funded 6,737 new classroom school buildings and help address the perennial school building and classroom shortage," Javier said.

It could also have paved 10,000 kilometers of national roads, and increased by an additional 8 percent the basic pay of 1.3 million government workers, he added.

Advocates of fiscal incentives rationalization has been pushing for such a measure since the 11th Congress.

They said the bill was very difficult to turn into law because it was opposed by big business groups.

The advocates also cited lack of political will in pushing for the enactment of this bill.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar G. Mangaoang

People with epilepsy should know their rights

By Tessa R. Salazar

TO PEOPLE WITH epilepsy, stand your ground. If you deserve to be in the job, stay put. (If you're having problems), contact us."

This was what members of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy (PLAE) declared during the recent health forum of the Philippine College of Physicians Quality Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Ana Maria A. Jacelon, chair, organizing committee of the forum, said epilepsy (commonly called seizure) is a condition that is not well understood by many people, and has little information available to them.

Advice

"If you encounter problems with your employer, one pat. And when employers give you papers, keep the papers as evidence. Jacelon advises people with epilepsy and also employers facing employment discrimination to call Plae at 525-4906.

Experts in the health forum urged people with epilepsy to choose voluntary instead of resignation when their employers make them do.

"If you resign, you gave up your right to fight. That is my message to people with epilepsy," Jacelon said.

Dr. Manuel Pilo Agtarap, second vice president of Plae, estimates that roughly one percent of the Filipino population, or about 800,000 suffer from the disease. Worldwide, there are about 50 million people with epilepsy.

Who is prone to epilepsy? Many authorities fall into the most productive ages—1 out of 3 people with epilepsy develop the condition by age 18. More than half of all cases with epilepsy develop symptoms before they turn 25.

What epilepsy is

The term "epilepsy" comes from the Greek word epilambanein, which means to overcome from without." It occurs suddenly and without warning. Any other epilepsy presents as a convulsion with powerful contractions of the parts of the body. But it can also manifest as a sudden brief change in thinking, movement, sensation or behavior.

Plae explained that epilepsy is the most common chronic brain disorder in the world. It is not rare or mysterious contagious. There is no witchcraft and demonic possession involved.

It is a medical condition caused by sudden, brief changes in how the brain works. When this change, or seizure, occurs, a person's conventional behavior or consciousness may be altered for a short time, after which he or she goes back to his or her normal condition.

According to Plae, some seizures are local/partial or limited only to a certain part of the body and not last more than a few seconds while in true, all consciousness are generalized, where the person can collapse or lose consciousness and have convulsions of the whole body.

Jacelon said Plae is educating schools about epilepsy. When the school educator teaches the proper procedures during a student's seizure, it could prevent the whole school from panicking.

Dr. Leonor Cabral Lim, Plae's immediate past president, said schools should not bar students for skills because they can be prepared to help students and even other staff members during seizures to maintain calm and order in the schools.

What to do

When someone experiences a seizure, experts advise not to panic.

- Let the patient lie down.
- If a person whose seizure will last more than five minutes should be brought to the hospital.
- Do not give water to the patient as the fluid could go to the lungs, which would result to choking.
- Do not restrain someone who is having a seizure with medication (prescription from his or her neurologist) that stops the brain's normal electrical discharge.

Know your limitations

Jeanette Ibrahim-Rhoughton, president of Epilepsy Awareness and Advocacy Inc., advises Filipinos with epilepsy who are suffering from discrimination: "Be strong. Learn your limitations, look for what you can do. Look for how to succeed on your own. I was discriminated before in my work but it didn't stop me from succeeding."

Rhoughton is a native of Guam, mother to be with a college degree in music, majoring in choral conducting (her first degree was Tourism). She is a mother of a 2-year-old boy and a wife to an American husband. She started living w/ Filipinos with epilepsy like her, still to be empowered as she is now. Rhoughton was a recipient of Epilepsy Foundation Awardee 2000.

Apple Salonga, also an epilepsy foundation Awardee, is a 26-year-old business management graduate (marketing major). She was raised a victim of convulsions by her unspiced after she had a vision of "glimmer of light" for less than a minute (sudden interruption of consciousness of normal activities and a short period of unconsciousness). In Apple's case, she was visiting friends when her attack. This didn't discourage her from pursuing her dreams.

Medicine an inexact science

By Rafael R. Custillo, MD

AFTER A RECENT TALK I GAVE in Manila I merged about aggressive blood pressure reduction—a concept I call attacks and strike: a participant raised the point that by-

preventive intervention [illegible] with cardiovascular [illegible] kidney diseases [illegible] who can undergo dialysis seem to be lessen off with a relatively higher blood pressure (like 160/100) or among those similar patients with apparently controlled blood pressure, say 130/70 mmHg.

Higher levels of blood pressure equal to or higher than 140/90 mmHg are associated with increased survival in the aging in the general population but the converse seems to be true in patients undergoing maintenance dialysis.

Paradox of medicine

"This is the paradox of medicine, having an inverse science. What may be true for the big majority of the population may be exactly the mirror image opposite in small segments of the population. This paradox, which is so entire medical researchers would call it, is what is known as "reverse epidemiology" or RE. The paradox involves the association of conventional risk factors-specifically cholesterol, obesity and arterial cholesterol levels, with survival in patients with ESRD and congestive heart failure (CHF).

According to Dr. Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, who is the main proponent of the RE hypothesis, conventional risk factors of cardiovascular disease and death in the general population relate in reverse in patients undergoing dialysis for end-stage kidney failure and heart failure patients in a surprisingly different manner.

MEDICAL FILES

In opposite direction

"The traditional epidemiology of heart disease—in that high cholesterol is bad for the heart and vessels—appears to be in the opposite direction in these groups of individuals," Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh explains.

If we were to believe the RE hypothesis, ESRD and CHF patients would live longer and have less cardiovascular hospitalizations while they're alive, if their specific BP remains high before dialysis at 150-180 mmHg, if they're severely obese (not just overweight), and if their cholesterol levels are on the high side. Average as it may sound, these deadly risk factors for the general population have a "protective effect" on ESRD and CHF patients, according to the RE hypothesis. There is also emerging data that such a paradox may be true in malnourished and severely ill patients (cachexia and emaciation).

The mechanisms for RE are not clear but Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh and his group propose that it might be associated with the "malnutrition-inflammation-atherosclerosis-cachexia" (MIAC). It is believed that under malnourished, especially cachectic patients, are not capable of sustaining normal metabolic processes in their body. Some abnormally accelerated immune system, making them susceptible to all sorts of complications, and may even activate self-destruction of the tissues and organs of the body.

Answer a lot of questions

Once cholesterol is part of some essential hormones and actually comprises the cell membrane of most cells in the body, a relatively lower cholesterol level can aggravate the MIAC. If a normal level is thought to be reflective of a significantly impaired liver function since the systolic BP (the upper number of the BP) is partly due to the amount of blood being pumped out by the heart.

Reverse epidemiology proposes a diametrically opposed paradigm shift, making it difficult to accept without having a lot more to say's. Except, this point in time it is difficult to prove. For exactly where we are going," Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh says. He admits that the RE hypothesis "does not answer a lot of questions.

One vital question is if the normal BP, weight and cholesterol levels are the same as the effect of hemodialysis on the kidneys (because, heart failure and other medical conditions [like] cachexia are epidemiology. If it were the case, then we should recommend that patients who have hypertension as well as the elderly should gain weight to the point of being obese as they may live longer. This sounds a little absurd in this point.

Guideline for treatment

With the robust data supporting the adverse effects of hypertension, obesity and hypercholesterolemia, from the general epidemiologic perspective, the reverse epidemiology hypothesis definitely goes against the grain of current wisdom. It will require more than the retrospective analyses done by Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh's group to convince the medical community that it is a valid hypothesis to consider in practice.

Reverse epidemiology has already provoked a lot of debate with no one knowing which side to fight at the end of the debate. It is premature for physicians at this point to have it at the back of their minds when they treat dialysis and heart failure patients but not to subscribe to it fully and making it as the guideline for treatment in these categories of the diseased population.

Yummy healthy snacks

Universe N. Lee-Chua

FOUR (4) OUT OF EIGHT [illegible] pino children, aged 6 to 12 years, are anemic, according to the National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). Anemia is caused by lack of iron. It can cause shortened attention span, irritability and fatigue. Anemic kids may have trouble concentrating in school.

Children then should consume a variety of foods high in iron. Liver and giblets are the richest source. Inclusion of lean meat, fish and poultry in general. However, iron is also present in plant foods, such as legumes, dried fruits like prunes, and green leafy vegetables.

Among the latter foods are garlic (kesworth), kulitis (amaranth), dahon ng kamunggay (kuto malunggay), dahon ng camote (kamote), dahon ng [illegible] (Chinese celery leaves), dahon ng sibuyas (leeks leaves) and dahon ng kamias (sweet gooseberry).

Fortunately, many foods are also fortified with iron. The [illegible] manufacturers of Monde's Singkong Flour with Oregano, Sunshine Manufacturing Corp. manufacturers of Sunshine Evaporated Filled Milk, etc. have iron fortified. Dr. Estrella S. Martinez of FNRI reports, by partnership with the food industry, we bring special the technology for iron-fortified chocolate tablets to reduce anemia. A 20-gram serving of the tablets will meet one-third of the RDA [illegible] for elementary school children."

Meatless sausage

Aside from iron-fortified candies, the FNRI is now evaluating the health benefits of meatless sausage. Instead of the ordinary meat-based product, soya is the main ingredient. It is high in fat, FNRI has developed a soy-based sausage. Studies have shown that [illegible] can play a role in preventing cancer and heart disease.

According to Ma. Elena U. Fernandez, "The sausage is high in protein in cubic fatty and vitamin. Flavored with monosodium glutamate and herbs. The product contains 12.3 percent dietary fiber, 17.3 percent protein and 263 kilocalories per 100 grams. When packed in polyethylene bags, the sausage can remain fit for and acceptable for 12 months of storage in a freezer. However, commercial viability has yet to be determined and clinical studies conducted for [illegible]-anemia."

Menu guide calendar

Though we are in the latter half of 2001, here is one calendar that will be useful for the whole year. The FNRI Menu Guide Calendar features 12 illustrations, one menu for a month, and nutritious recipes using locally available and affordable food. Aside from providing healthy snacks for the family, the recipes can be a source of extra income for encouraging individuals.

The calendar also contains health and nutrition tips for children, facts on food fortification and tips by budgeting food. The calendar also includes Daily Nutritional Guide Pyramids for Filipinos for various age groups such as pregnant mothers, lactating women, preschoolers, school-age children, adolescents, young adults, and the elderly.

Marietta M. Buensuceso says, "Through the calendar, we mandate our research results to the people. We want to make it more interesting to increase awareness of good nutrition."

For more information, write or call Director Maria V. Capuno, executive [illegible] Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, with telefax [illegible] 2634/3164, and e-mail [illegible]. The calendar also sells for the FNRI website at http://fnri.dost.gov.ph.

* * *

Universe N. Lee-Chua is a professor of [illegible] and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. E-mail [illegible]@yahoo.com.

KIDS QUIZ By Emmaus Cena

So, what do you call your babies?

They are called puppies, these young lovely baby dogs. We also have the oh so cute kittens for baby cats. But did you know that several alternative have names for their mother and parents?

Here's a test for you. You need not be a pet lover to answer this. Check your knowledge of the names by matching the name of the mother animal on the left with the name for her baby on the right. Base of each table!

Mother	Young
1. cow (adaptive)	a) colt
2. sow (boar)	b) chick
3. hen (fowl)	c) baby
4. bitch (collie)	d) gosling
5. doe (deer)	e) kid
6. jill (hare)	f) farrow
7. goose (gander)	g) whelp
8. pony (donkey)	h) hatchling
9. mare (goat)	i) calf
10. queen (worker bee)	j) fawn

Answer: 1-d (beef), 2-f (hey dear), 3-b (fowl), 4-g (collie), 5-j (deer), 6-e (hare), 7-a (gander), 8-c (donkey), 9-i (goat), 10-h (worker bee)

Young Pinoy environmentalist makes int'l impact

By Charles E. Ballon

HIS NAME MAY NOT RING A bell in his own country but environmentalist Gregory Umpay among the 160 participants to the recent Rotary International Youth Conference in Leverkusen, Germany and they call him "Greg." Umpay, 24-year-old colleague from Davao City who only led them to the United Nations have remained. Program included gardening.

The biennial Rotary International Youth Conference is Europe's global youth forum that brings together young environmentalist leaders aged 18-26...from all over the world to share experiences on the environment. The word "Rotary" means to trust with care or affection. Umpay said, "It is a universal language in Esperanto (Africa).

"To be elected as one of the leaders of a group composed of 160 delegates from 85 countries is definitely a tough assignment since we have to work in a unified manner and be able to give one group meaningful representation for the two years that we have to serve," Umpay explained.

Advises Unep

He was elected into the Future Youth Advisory Council in 2000 and as one of its 12 members, the group advises Unep on the better ways of engaging young people in to work and represent youth in international environmental conventions.

"The report that volunteers we learn from this modeling conference, all of us will report to our respective communities and countries as well as to Unep as well as motivators for many others to play a part by addressing environmental challenges," Umpay said.

For this year's conference, Umpay informed that the focus is on climate protection, especially on energy and modern technologies for environmental protection.

"As we all know, while technological and industrial progress can make our lives [illegible] environmental damage, why not also use modern technology in solving our environmental problems," he suggested.

First time

For the first time, the Future International Youth Conference was held in the highly industrialized Germany [illegible] Germany [illegible] Davao [illegible] 2003 and in 2005 in Bangalore, India), wherein the delegates were able to experience first-hand modern technology in helping countries like Germany curb its environmental impact.

"It is hard to imagine effective environmental protection without innovative technologies," German Environment Minister Jurgen Trittin said as he welcomed the delegates. "We in the industrialized world bear a special responsibility to make our technological know-how available to the rest of the world in the interest of environmental protection."

Werner Henning, agreed saying that German industrial firms like Bayer AG (of which he is board of management chair), have succeeded in making efforts to balance its business activities with the protection of the environment and nature.

"In the same way, Bayer AG believes that the younger generation plays a key role in solving environmental problems at present and those who are active [illegible] environmental protection today could become the decision-makers of tomorrow, which is why the company has partnered with organizations like Unep in the area of youth and environment," Henning added.

In fact Bayer AG and Unep signed a new cooperation contract during the summit extending the partnership for the next three years. As part of the agreement, Bayer AG will support Unep with its own programs and an annual financial support amounting to $1.43 million (P76 million).

"Indeed this cooperation is important since everybody should be involved in the area of environmental protection and it is the young [illegible] that the voice of the youth is to be heard in political debates," Umpay concurred.

Being a leader is no longer new for Umpay who used to head the Watershed Management Youth Council in Davao City.

People, Events & Products

Edna Arles Espinosa

A new order for the Aetas of Subic

PARTNER NGO, ALAGA KDI

DESPITE BEING STEREOTYPED AS PEOPLE with no exposure to the present world, the Aetas of Subic are just as modern as the rest of us while retaining their traditions and beliefs.

We are talking about a community that remained intact after all these years of shakeups in their own little world. Yes, they may still have their distinct culture about them, but that does not mean that they were thrived on disruptions and modifications, both natural and man-made.

Consider their ears separated as highly mobile people. Their intimate knowledge of forests and wilderness—both those encapsulated authorities in jungle survival and techniques. All these years they kept their skills alive. In fact, they served as instructors to the American soldiers who wrestled them on jungle life. The Aetas taught them how to build fire, cook, build shelters, and trap animals using the most basic tools.

Up to now, they are still called upon to serve as forest rangers and guides within Subic.

Nowadays, there are about 200 Aetas families living inside the Subic Bay Freeport. With all the modern conveniences surrounding them, they continue to lead their lives in the distant way possible as did their forebears. They still rely on the forest and the bay for their survival.

On not think that they are left to their own devices as well. Their new order has found them being beneficiaries of health care by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Health and Welfare Group. The Aetas are provided with assistance such as medical and dental checkups.

In addition, they get to earn their keep through livelihood projects spearheaded by the Freeport Eco-Tourism and the Aetas Environmental and Services Training Camp. These projects cover cultural demonstrations, forest tours, and maintenance of plants and so.

All these show that while they have been consistently resisting change here other societies, the Aetas have learned to adapt and adjust in land even beside front social, economic, cultural, and political challenges with their traditional resilience. In the process, they have molded their very own persona and structure within their culture while enforcing the impact of sudden change.

The Aetas are the perfect models of the 10th Philippine Ad Congress' theme "The New Order". That despite all the shaking and stirring that happened within their community, they were able to develop new features and appreciation for the outside world and how its offerings can actually enhance their way of life.

Experience your own brand of "The New Order" at this year's Ad Congress at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on Nov. 21 to 24.

For more inquiries, log on to http://www.philad congress.the-secretariat.com or call the 2000 PBC Secretariat at 894-3070, 894-0808, or 812-5666.

BPI Search for the 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children

MA. TRINA ARJONSON, MEDICAL student from UP College of Medicine in Manila, heads the list of 10 awardees in the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Search for the 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children.

The nationwide search was launched during last year's BPI anniversary celebration and it a project of the Bank's Expat Pinoy Care center Segment of BPI Overseas Banking Division. The search is one way of fulfilling the bank's commitment to our Overseas Filipinos whose remittances are considered a major contribution of our economic progress. Moreover, these Filipinos' children—their source of inspiration and motivation—is serve as a reward for all their efforts. By citing the achievements of these children, BPI felt that it is giving greater honor and recognition to the members that our Expat Pinoys have abroad.

In celebration of its 116th year this year, BPI awarded 10 outstanding children of Expat Pinoys in simple ceremonies last Aug. 3 at the BPI Head Office in Makati, led by BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III. The BSP Governor, Amando Tetangco Jr., delivered the keynote message during the event.

The awardees, each getting a grant of P50,000 in cash, trophy and a new Globe cellphone, are:

Maria Trina, UP College of Medicine freshmen, daughter of Andrew B. Arjonson who is based in Oman; siblings Kristine Ann of Ayala Technical Institute and Neil Stephen of Isla Salle University; children of Noel C. Lopez based in Indonesia; Mark Lester, University of Perpetual help System, son of Rico Mercurio Cesantes based in Dubai; Erika Mikaela Ara, Ateneo de Manila University daughter of Rodrigo Ara Aguing based in Sudan, South Africa; Jonathon, Philippine Science High School, son of Vicente M. Batungbacal based in Sharjah; Mary Grace, Makati Science High School, daughter of Jesus E. Pascua based in Saudi Arabia; Jan Marvin, Ateneo de Manila University daughter of Ismael J. Villar based in Dubai; UAE; Ian, UP Visayas, son of Danilo L. Villaluna based in Japan; and Soleil, Adamson University daughter of Manuel I. Roxas who is based in Saudi Arabia.

The board of judges was composed of Deputy Administrator Noemi Dimamalen of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Deputy Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Director Fe Aida Cruz of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Angelito Pineda of the Department of Education and BPI senior vice president Raoul Benavidez as chair.

Singing champion Bill Jordan, BPI celebrity endorser since 2006 and himself a son of an Expat Pinoy, was likewise given by BPI president Aurelio Montinola a special citation for his exemplary achievements in the fields of arts and entertainment. Erik's father is an engineer in the Middle East for more than 30 years. He received the award with members of his family, led by his proud mother Angelina Jordan.

Erik Santos capped the ceremony with his heartwarming rendition of the song of hope and promises for today's youth, as well as the BPI theme song for the Expat Pinoys, "Abutin Mo Ang Iyong Pangarap", an original composition.

Sun's 0% interest on monthly service fees

SUN CELLULAR SAYS IT'S DISTINGUISHED AMONG TOKAPOS FOR A compact line without having to submit those documentary requirements with Sun Cellular's 0% Internet your way to a Sun Postpaid Line Promo from today, 20 to Sept. 21 customers who are principal or supplementary card holders of participating bank-issued credit cards may simply proceed to any of the Sun Shops, present their credit card, latest billing statement and a valid ID, and start enjoying Sun's on-demand postpaid offers including the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service. Through this offer, customers can enjoy 0% interest and their 24 months of Sun Service Fee, which they may opt to pay in one of twelve months installment with no interest. Imagine enjoying a postpaid line that comes with a free camera phone and can be enrolled in Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited for 24 months by paying as low as P 150 per month only for 12 months. Sun Cellular's postpaid lines come with a wide range of exciting free phones like the Nokia 3500 and Sony Ericsson W 810i. On, interest your way to a Sun Postpaid Line Promo and the offered it at Sun Shop locations nationwide. For more information regarding this irresistible deal, you may contact the customer service hotline at 322-000-9000 or 2000 through your Sun Cellular phone or for more information on our postpaid products, just log on to www.suncellularcom.ph

Fundacion Centro Flamenco presents Alegrias

FUNDACION CENTRO FLAMENCO WILL PRESENT "ALEGRIAS", A yearly-ay of Spanish dances on Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club clubhouse in Salcedo Village, Makati. The activity will showcase talented students of Cecile de Jesus and Emma Librada as they perform to the rhythm of allegrias, Tangos, Bulerias and classical Flamenco dances with castanets. Special guests include Pentagonos, a group of musicians playing Spanish music in the best of soprano and guitar trio and Ramon Francisco Maeda, a newly trained professional guitarist whose performance captivates. For inquiries, call Fundacion Centro Flamenco at 751-2340 and 896-9098.

16th Int'l Exposition on Food Processing

ASEMFOOD 2007, THE BIGGEST AND THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE expo for the food and beverage industry opened Sept. 5 at the Nayon Trade Center in Pasay City with Senate Majority Floor Leader Aller Pangilinan as guest of honor. An estimated 45,000 trade buyers and visitors are expected to attend this May 2007, which will run until Sept. 8. More than 600 exhibitor companies international and local will showcase the latest technologies in the food industries. Included in the exhibitors are the endeavors and foreign national groups spearheaded by the United States Agricultural Trade Office, Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation, the La Chal French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Kapatiran Talaan, an international event of The Netherlands and the Philippines Department of Agriculture. Local counterparts which has registered group participation were Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc, Food Re-Inspectors and Exporters of the Philippines, Philippine Franchise Association and Philippine Association of Food Technologists.

HOM's 'Volunteer Chronicles' extended

DUE TO REPEATED REQUESTS, HANDS ON MANILA AND PONDS'S have extended the period for submission of articles to the "Volunteer Chronicles" writing contest to Sept. 30. Interested participants may join the competition by submitting the following items in a sealed brown envelope: a duly-accomplished official entry form and authorization form made a selected letter-size essay, a printout of the write-up, and a soft copy of the entry on CD or floppy disk. Only the title of the entry and the author's pen name should appear on the outside envelope and not the write-up. You can download the Official Entry Form and the Authorization form from the websites www.powerbrooks.com.ph and www.handsonmanila.org. The mechanics of the contest are also posted in the Hands On Manila website. So, hurry and send in your entries! You might just be one of the lucky three winners who will receive awards and have their entries published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The first prize is a free trip for two to Manhattan Bay, Cebu via Cebu Pacific and P5,000 worth of Powerbrooks gift certificates; second prize is a free stay for two at the Baguio Country Club and P3,000 worth of Powerbrooks gift certificates; and third prize is a free stay for two at Sea Mate Hotel also P2,000 worth of Powerbrooks gift certificates. Entries may be submitted to any Powerbrooks branch or mailed to the Powerbrooks Head office c/o Marketing Department at 25 Benitez St., Capitol Subdivision, Pasig City. Deadline for the submission of entries is Sept 30 at 5 p.m. For inquiries, e-mail info@handsonmanila.org or call 843-7344.

How to have stylish furniture on a budget

IT IS ALMOST A CLICHÉ NOW ON HOW TO HAVE STYLISH FURNITURE IN your house or condominium without breaking the bank. Why not just have directly from the furniture factory? Mandaue Foam (subsidiary of Filsystems) has now established its presence in Luzon. It has recently opened a factory and showroom along the 21 Diego Ave. ind., Cainta, Rizal. The direction will be SLEX exit at Km. 23 and MERALCO. Mandaue Foam is the country's largest upholstery operating for more than 39 years. It is well-known in the Visayas for its high-quality foam mattresses carrying the Fortrem brand and comfortable Gala beds. With 11 Mandaue foam showrooms and branches nationwide, the company is able to showcase its extensive product lines of furniture and accessories for the domestic and international market. Mandaue Foam will have its annual 15-day nationwide sale from Sept. 11-30. It is offering a 20 percent discount on all its products. Factory prices and special prices on select models, sofa beds, and living room sets are available for a limited time. Homeowners and interior designers in search of fresh homestyling ideas are invited to visit the factory showroom and branches at Mandaue Foam in Cainta, Cebu, General Santos, Davao, Butuan, Iloilo, Dagupan de Oro and Bacolod.

The Great Sports Outlet Sale at Market! Market!

MARKET! MARKET!, THE ULTIMATE BARGAIN HUNTER'S HAVEN, TURNS up the thrill of sports a notch higher with the Great Sports Outlet Sale. From Sept. 10 to 16 the Market! Market! Activity Center will be transformed into a sports mall's ultimate heaven, with huge discounts on footwear, apparel and accessories. Reinforcing its efforts to bring added shopping power to Metro Manila shoppers, sports' biggest names such as Adidas, Reebok, Wilson, Arch, Li & Sons, The North Face, Diadora, Puma, Puma, Jansport, Converse, Puma, Nike, Speedo, Mizuno, Columbia, Asics, Kappa, and many more will be there to offer the latest in sports and lifestyle apparel and accessories, shoes, sneakers, flipflops, bags and back packs. So create the winning basket. Score the spectacular goal. Climb the highest peak. Dance the challenging routine. Cool down or style. Make the ultimate trip—come to the Market! Market! Great Sports Outlet Sale. While some sports activities you get involved in, you can be sure you'll get great sports gear without breaking a hole in your pocket. Now that's exciting. Watch out for more exciting events at the Market! Market! Activity Center. It is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. It can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service bus, point terminal is available for your convenience. For more details, contact the concierge hotline at 886-7315 and the ancillary hotline at 886-7316.

MET Premium Whitening Soap from Japan launch

MET PREMIUM WHITENING SOAP FROM JAPAN IS READY TO LAUNCH and they're doing it in style. Starting Sept. 8 and running until Sept. 22, MET has a unique campaign that features a fun-filled whitening adventure. Basically, all you have to do is guess who the cutest star whitener is and if you're lucky you just might get to experience this special kind of whitening for free. If you get it right, you have a chance to win a MET Soap gift pack plus a White Beauty gift certificate. Simply check out the MET Soap print ads in The Lifestyle sections of the Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Manila Bulletin. Or look closely at the MET Soap billboards posted near Asian Hospital in Alabang, outside Robinsons Galleria, and at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue. Then on the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd, join

JHMC
Cebu I.T. Management Corporation
a subsidiary of the Ayala Corporation and Development Authority

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Cebu I.T. Management Corporation, a subsidiary of the Ayala Corporation and Development Authority, is in need of the following:

Position : **FINANCE DIVISION MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for the efficient financial operations of JHMC and ensures compliance by developers and locators with BOI and PEZA IAR regarding investment requirements
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
Eligibility : Must be a Certified CPA
Experience : At least seven (7) years in Government Accounting and Commercial Accounting, Financial Statements or related field
Skills : Must have knowledge in Government Accounting and Auditing Manual, Internal and external auditing, Computer literate, highly organized, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **TREASURY SPECIALIST**
Description : Responsible for cash management
Education : Accounting Graduate
Experience : At least two (2) years in Treasuring, Treasury or related field, preferably with Government Management level
Eligibility : Must be a licensed CPA
Skills : Computer literate, highly organized

Position : **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION MANAGER** (to head Human Resource (HR))
Description : Responsible for Personnel Management, Human Resource, Payroll, and organizational development, and administrative support and logistics
Education : Bachelor's degree in Commerce or Business Management or related field
Experience : At least five (5) years managerial experience
Skills : Must have knowledge in Payroll and personnel management
Computer literate, highly organized
Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills
Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/ STENOGRAPHER**
Description : Provides secretarial support to assigned division to accomplishing of operational, administrative and technical support requirements
Education : Bachelor's degree in English, Mass Communication or Information Management
Experience : At least two (2) years secretarial experience
Skills : Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Access
Proficient in written and spoken English
Must have a stenographic and transcription of stenographic notes

Position : **MIS SPECIALIST**
Description : Performs an Information and Communications Technology requirements of the Manila Executive Office
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or related field
Experience : Three (3) years' relative work experience
Skills : Knowledge in Networking, Database, Server, Systems' scanning, LAN, and database systems' protection in MS Office and Website Design

Position : **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for the market development and marketing of business opportunities and investment packages, and provides technical support services to prospective investors & locators
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Business, Administration, or Business Management
Experience : At least five (5) years in Business Development, Management & Marketing, or Urban Planning
Skills : Proficient in Project Management and Monitoring, Computer literate, highly organized, Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **MARKETING OFFICER**
Description : Responsible for the implementation of marketing and promotional strategies of JHMC's business opportunities
Education : Graduate's Degree in Business Administration, preferably Major on Marketing or Management
Experience : Three (3) years experience in Sales & Marketing or Management
Skills : Excellent planning and organizing skills, Available communication and interpersonal skills, Computer literate

Position : **OFFICE OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL WORKS (BCW) SUPERVISOR**
Description : Responsible for technical support with regard to the implementation of the National Building Code and JHMC infrastructure projects within the Cebu Ionic Hay Business
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering
Experience : At least five (5) years experience in a Technical Administrative and/or Civil Engineering, Planning and design, Construction management
Eligibility : Licensed Civil Engineer or Civil Engineer
Skills : Design, drafting and construction estimate, Project management and monitoring, Well versed in the New IRR of the Building Code of the Philippines

Position : **TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**
Description : Responsible for technical support in project planning and monitoring
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering
Experience : At least two (2) years experience in Architectural planning and design, Site development planning, Construction management, Land use planning and related fields
Skills : Design & drafting, Land use planning, Computer Aided Design and Drafting

Position : **SECURITY AND SAFETY DIVISION MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for security and safety, and ensures compliance with environmental concerns, and safety/ public health laws and regulations
Education : Graduate's Degree in Criminology, Engineering or related course
Experience : At least five (5) years in Security or Military Operations
Skills : Must have knowledge in Security and Safety
Training in investigations or Special Operations, Computer literate, highly organized, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **SECURITY SUPERVISORS (2)**
Description : Assists in the implementation of JHMC's Unified Security and Safety Plan, Monitors and supervises the performance of the security agency, Enforces laws relative to the protection and preservation of the natural resources assets of the Camp John Hay Reservation
Education : Graduate of B.S. Criminology or B.S Military Science
Experience : At least two (2) years in the police service
Eligibility : Must be a Licensed Security Officer
Skills : At least 1st Lieutenant or its equivalent
Training in Investigation, Supervision, Training on Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship, Holder of a Professional Driver's License, Computer literate, Good written and verbal communication skills

An interested applicants are requested to submit their Application Letter and ID Picture, forward with these the Character References, Police Clearance, Medical Certificate, and Certification of Previous Employment on or before September 14, 2007 to:

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
John Hay Management Corporation
Bell House Basement, Historical Core, Camp John Hay, Baguio City
P.O. Box 1064
Telephone Nos. (074) 444-0000 local 611 and (074) 444-6022 to 24
Email: jhmcphilcare@yahoo.com

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APi

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- Orthodontist / Surgeon is a plus
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

RECEPTIONIST

- 20 – 27 yrs. Old, Female
- 1st level (5' 3" up)
- Nursing Graduate / Medical allied professional is a plus
- Computer Literate
- With pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

Interested applicants may send their Application Letter, Resume with 2x2 picture, TOR (certified/with qualification), Passport copy and NBI clearance through registered mail, email, or fax to:

MS. MARIA C. LUCHESE
API GROUP MANAGER
2/F Ninfrigate Center, Gov. Cuenco Ave.
Basak Pardo, Cebu City 6000, Philippines

Or Email to : api_mdc@yahoo.com
Fax # : (032) 231-4600

For more info please call: (032) 231-9997 / 231-9982 and look for Ms. Janice Abin, Administrative Assistant or Ms. Marian Velayo, Assistant Officer of API GROUP.

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4. Graduate of a Reputable School

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3. With experience in TV Production
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1. Preferably with experience in production

HR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Graduate of BS Psychology or related course
2. With previous experience

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/ SEGMENT PRODUCER

1. Preferably with experience in production
2. Graduate of AB-Broadcast Communication or related course

Please submit or hand carry your resume at the address below:

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

NOTICE

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NOTICE

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The way of Mary

In Loving Memory of

RUBEN FAMY ALVAREZ

on the 20th Anniversary of His Passage to Eternal Life

Holy Masses will be offered for him today at the following Churches:

Our Lady of Grace Parish, Grace Park, Caloocan City ..... 6:45 a.m.
Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Mindanao Avenue Ext. QC ..... 8:00 a.m.
San Nicolas De Tolentino Parish, Congressional Village, QC ..... 9:00 a.m.
Nuestra Senora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City ..... 9:00 a.m.
Mount Carmel Church, New Manila, QC ..... 9:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Madison St., Greenhills East, San Juan ..... 9:00 a.m.
Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, Alabang Village, QC ..... 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose Parish, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City ..... 6:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish, Wigglesworth Vill., Makati City ..... 6:15 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 6:15 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz St., Makati City ..... 6:00 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Kalayaan Ave., Makati City ..... 6:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, San Juan, Metro Manila ..... 9:00 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City ..... 7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Shrine, Aurora Blvd., QC ..... 12:00 nn
St. Jude Parish, Pura, San Fernando, La Union ..... 5:00 p.m.
St. William Cathedral, San Fernando, La Union ..... 5:15 p.m.
Holy Family Parish, Kamias, QC ..... 6:00 p.m.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory of

Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

December 6, 1937 – September 8, 2003

"On This Day
O Beautiful Mother,
We Give You Our Love"

Her devoted family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

JOSE "CHOO-CHOO" P. ELLIS

March 5, 1937 – August 29, 2007

Choo-Choo passed away suddenly at his home in San Francisco from cardiac arrest. His remains were cremated last August 31 at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City, CA. He is sadly missed but lovingly remembered.

He is survived by his loving wife Penpilok, Children: Angie & Jerry (Pat), Annette and Angela.

A simple memorial service celebrating Choo-Choo's life will be held at the Capilla del Señor Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment shall be at the Manila Memorial Park at Sucat, Parañaque City after the 5:00 p.m. Requiem Mass On Sunday, September 9, 2007.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Choo-Choo's name to their favorite charities.

MA. ELSIE MUÑOZ YELO-ENRIQUEZ

January 9, 1937 – September 5, 2007

peacefully returned Home to the loving embrace of her Creator at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband Retired Major General GUILLERMO P. ENRIQUEZ, JR. children GIGI, MIKE & JUN; sons-in-law PANCHO ADELBERTO M. HUBILLA and ROBERT GATUE, PO; and grandchildren PAOLO ADRIAN, CHRISTEL LENORA and ULONG MARIE PO, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park-North, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 9, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at the Main Chapel.

MA. CRISTINA "BABY" LARDIZABAL SEGISMUNDO

of Lipa City, Batangas

Peacefully passed away to the grace of our Lord on September 6, 2007.

Her loving husband, **Eduardo "Eddie" Segismundo**; children **Edsel, Connie, Elkan** and **Tina**; her brothers and sister, grandchildren and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas.

Interment will be announced later.

Pantaleon Banzon Tuason
"Pan"

Died in the Grace of our Lord on Sept. 6, 2007 at the age of 66.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state in Balanga, Bataan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 9, 2007 in Balanga, Bataan.

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(PD) September 5, 6 & 11, 2007

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that **warrants of arrest** of **MR. APOLINAR REGINTO MAFARIGAN** of Brgy. Dulnatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 06-01-66 and 06-0242 to 06-0267 for violation of Batas Pambansa Blang 22.

Positive information leading to his arrest shall be rewarded.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

LUCKY 4A CORPORATION
Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City, 4217 Batangas
Tel. Nos. (043)404-1340, (043)404-1342 and (043)404-1340

(PD) September 9, 2007

IOR

BUSINESS

Asian stocks up, currencies stall ahead of data

Investors waiting for US jobs report; gold at 16-month high

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS crept higher yesterday as rising oil lifted heavyweight mining shares, but the Nikkei fell and the dollar hovered near one-month lows until growing caution ahead of the influential US jobs report.

Spot gold swayed back from a 16-month high hit on Thursday but remained underpinned by strong demand, while oil hovered above $78 a barrel on rising concerns between Syria and Israel and after a drop in US fuel inventories.

Investors were even reluctant to take big positions ahead of the August US non-farm payrolls data, with the focus on how much the housing and credit market turmoil may have damaged the US economy, a top destination for Asian goods.

The non-farm payrolls report is expected to show a rise of 120,000 jobs in August and a steady jobless rate of 4.6 percent.

On Thursday, fresh signs of home loan troubles emerged after a report showed a record percentage of American homes had entered foreclosure in the second quarter, but data on the service sector and retail sales last month pointed to easing enough still in the world's biggest economy.

By early yesterday afternoon, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan had inched up 0.1 percent, following Thursday's 0.6 percent rise.

But Tokyo's Nikkei again underperformed, slipping 0.8 percent as continuing concern about a global credit squeeze weighed on bank issues such as Mizuho Financial Group.

Among other markets in the region, Chinese mainland stocks shed 1.2 percent after the central bank raised bank reserve requirements for a seventh time this year as part of a concerted campaign to keep the economy from overheating.

The MSCI index looked set to end higher for a third straight week, continuing its recovery from a five-month trough plumbed on Aug. 17. It is now 19 percent above the low and just 6 percent below the July 24 life high.

Investors bought miners amid talk of a possible takeover in the sector involving Rio Tinto, driving the shares up 3 percent, while rival mining giant BHP Billiton climbed 2.3 percent.

Spot gold hit a high of $695.70 on Thursday—the highest since May 2006—and was trading near $693 an ounce on Friday in Asia.

But wariness about the US economy kept the major currencies under pressure.

In the forex market, the dollar steadied against a basket of currencies after falling to a one-month low in the previous session on worries about the US economy.

But the market overall was subdued.

"People are happy to wait until Monday to see where the market is," said Colin Waddington, head of forex trading at Royal Bank of Scotland in Tokyo.

The US dollar index rose to 80.5, but was still not far off Thursday's low of 80.368—a level last seen on Aug. 6. Reuters

A THAI vendor arranges bananas as he waits for customers in Bangkok. Thailand's economy is expected to grow just over 4 percent in 2007, among the lowest in Southeast Asia. AP

Greenspan says stock market turmoil similar to 1998, 1987

GREENSPAN

NEW YORK—"THE FUSSIN and fuss never found a way to accelerate bubbles," Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in reference to the euphoria that can precede contraction, or recession, like the current market turmoil, according to a published report.

Greenspan, speaking in testimony Thursday in Washington, compared this turmoil to that of 1987 and in 1998, when the giant hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management went to collapse, The Wall Street Journal reported on its website.

"The behavior in what we are observing in the last seven weeks is identical in many respects to what we saw in 1998, what we saw in the stock market crash of 1987, I suspect what we saw in the bond losses collapse of 1937 and certainly the bank panic of 1907," Greenspan said at the event organized by the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, according to the Journal.

Greenspan, now a private consultant, said: euphoria takes over when the economy is expanding and investors believe, "and these bubbles cannot be defused until the fever breaks," the Journal said.

Bubbles cannot be defused through incremental adjustments in interest rates, he suggested, the paper reported.

The Fed doubled interest rates in 1994-95, and "stopped the nascent stock market boom," but when stopped, stocks took off again.

"We tried to do it again in 1997," when the Fed raised rates a quarter of a percentage point, and "the same phenomenon recurred." AP

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PROPERTY

Be secure with developer before settling in

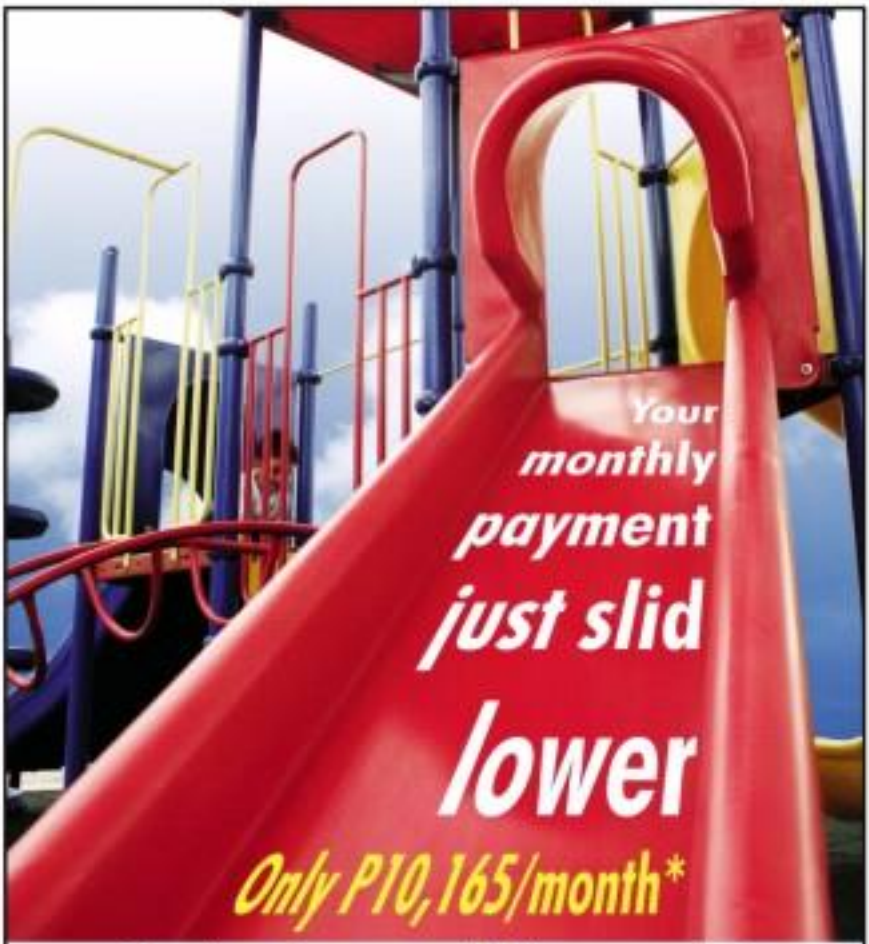
Condo unit owners bear the responsibility of 'looking out for one another,' experts say

By Tess R. Sioson

PROPERTY EXPERTS NOTE that aside from "good vigor" the deluge of condo development brings for the Philippine property market, it gives prospective buyers more choices in terms of size, design, location and price.

Global Property Guide's chief economist Peiner Christian S. Cruz notes that the more options available, the better it is for buyers.

READ MORE B2.2



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Be secure with developer before settling in

Turn to page B5-1

Richard Baumwoll, Colliers International's director for research and consultancy, says that as with other industries, a more robust property sector would contribute more to the economy and also increase property values. He also says another positive result of a property sector boom is increased employment for the construction outfits.

Good track record

But are low-priced condominium developments enough for you to "bite the bullet," as we speak? Without the urge you back to completed condo units from reputable developers, experts remind Filipino condo-seek buyers not to commit the common mistake of buyers in the past. If you're considering buying from condo developers without proven track records, don't just take their word for it. Investigate.

"Residential units are sold on a pre-selling basis in the Philippines. Buying from a developer with a good track record gives an assurance that it will be delivered on time and with the quality agreed on," Baumwoll advises.

Buying a condominium in the Philippines "is very tricky," Cruz points, and that's why buyers need to look first at the developer's track record in terms of reliability, service and quality.

"The company's reputation in terms of structural design is very important. It is easy to check the size and layout of condo units, but to check whether substandard materials were used in the construction of the building or whether the developer built using unlicensed appliances and earthquakes is difficult."

Cruz assumes that the Philippines is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions constantly threaten the land. "Completely surrounded by water, we are also under constant threat of typhoons and flood."

Life of a condo

Cruz says the building's life actually depends on its structural design and maintenance. "In other countries, a well-maintained building can last up to 100 years without any major renovations, more or equal to the Philippines, a building's life span is probably shorter due to harsher environmental conditions."

He adds that condominiums are not like a corporation. When the unit owners or architect first conceive of a condominium project, they must have in mind the common interests

The most energy-efficient buildings in Asean in 2007

FIRST OF TWO SETS

A WORLD-CLASS STATE-OF-THE-ART Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation center inspired by the shape of a kite, green office buildings, shopping malls, a resort amid spring fonds, a seaside resort, a traditional hotel in a historic site. These are some of the winning entries in the seventh annual Asean Energy Awards 2007, an annual competition of the greenest and most energy-efficient buildings in the region.

The Asean Energy Awards is Southeast Asia's most prestigious annual awards program that recognizes outstanding works in the field of energy. Its aim is to provide international commissions and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who conscientiously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation. The program was conceived for energy-efficient buildings to become showcases for others to replicate and promote.

Competing entries are pre-qualified by the Department of Energy in each country. Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges made up of top representatives from each country of Asean, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Categories

There are four categories in the competition namely:

- New and existing building
- Refurbished building
- Tropical building
- Special submission

Qualified building types

Offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals have been selected as building types due to their predictable hours of operation.

Disqualifications/requirements. Candidates should pass the disqualification criteria that include the energy efficiency standards set and established by the board of judges. The energy audit or evaluation conducted by the Department of Energy at no cost to the applicant for joining the competition, is a basic requirement to reward energy efficiency and conservation measures employed and to determine their effectiveness.

New, existing building category

Singapore—Winner

Singapore, once again, topped this year's awards with the National Library, a 16-story air-conditioned building with bioclimatic design techniques, having a floor area of about 67,000 square meters. Ten percent of its area is devoted to "sky courts" and landscaped areas throughout the building, which improves the working environment and provides a positive psychological effect on the users.

The building is made up of two blocks interconnected by bridges to ensure that the library spaces are not affected by the activities in the other block.

The building is oriented so that the least solid spaces are protected from direct solar radiation and heat buildup. In addition, natural ventilation is aided by mechanical means in several spaces.

Notable features include motion sensor lighting, daylight saving lighting control system to allow internal and external light control, high efficiency chillers for the air conditioning system and carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide sensors to ensure constant supply of fresh air.

Malaysia—First Runner-up

The Putrajaya International Convention Center of Malaysia is the first runner-up. It is located within Putrajaya, the new administrative capital of Malaysia. The building's unique curvilinear design combines the traditional shape and concept of the ancient kite and the wind bell. Inside, the roof structure is like an original structure with an expansive roof that is designed to reflect rainwater. Natural light illumines the auditorium through tinted glass.

It has a total floor area of about 135,000 square meters spread over 9 floors. It uses chilled water supply from a gas district cooling plant via chilled water piping system. This system is also dense-an example of what is an need for the operation of the chillers and cooling towers.

Other features are high efficiency lighting luminaires, extremely ballasts, energy efficient lighting circuit and switches, escalators with infrared sensors for automatic operation, centralized vacuum system for cleaning purposes, rain sensors to shut down the irrigation sprinkler system when there is adequate rainfall.

Thailand—Second Runner-up

The second runner-up is Thailand's Bang Thai Resort Hotel. It has a 38,000 square meter 10-story building with a naturally-ventilated 14-story car park.

Some of the green features are proper building orientation with the shorter side facing east or west side of the building, inward basic building, they installed double layer insulated glass and metal cladding first, the lighted windows and glazing prevent air leakage. Circuit with glazing are planted on the northern and southern sides of the building because they are least exposed to the sun.

The author is the chair of the board of judges, Asean Energy Award. For comments or inquiries, e-mail cmsalcedo@gmail.com.

Antonio de Jesus

GREEN ARCHITECTURE

SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL LIBRARY (Winner, New Building Category), a 16-story innovative building with bioclimatic design techniques, having a floor area of about 67,000 square meters, 10 percent of which is devoted to "sky courts" and landscaped areas.

MALAYSIA'S PUTRAJAYA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (First Runner-Up, New Building Category), located on top of a prominent hill, is the brainchild of Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. It has achieved energy efficiency through building design, building orientation, extensive landscaping and promotion of energy efficiency, conservation and energy management system

Pacific Residences evolving urban living standards

A COMMUNITY OF GRAND design and with an entire range of real estate options located right inside the metropolis is truly an excellent find. The leader in developing sustainable yet luxuriously appointed, resort-style residences, Camella Prestige recently established on its first inner-city development, the Pacific Residences in Tagaytay City.

Camella Prestige is a proud member of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., the Philippines' largest home builder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country.

Evolving for Filipino families

Camella Prestige is evolving real estate standards to complement the lifestyle and living requirements of Filipinos who gently walking for their family's future. Every development is guided by the four cornerstones of a truly prestigious property: luxurious residential community; intricate and masterplanned design; added diversity of amenities; and continuous innovation, and utilizing only top-of-the-line materials.

Already under full-blast construction, Pacific Residences is a self-contained, fully integrated community with a collection of luxurious, single-attached homes and townhouses, influenced by the distinctive architecture of neo-Victorian San Francisco.

A FIRST-of-its-kind Victorian San Francisco-inspired development of Camella Prestige.

A P1.3 BILLION development...the Pacific Residences is Camella Prestige's first inner-city project.

Well-appointed homes

Pacific Residences has an exclusive of well-appointed homes to provide ample space as your children grow and the family's living requirements outside. The Natalie single-attached homes, with a floor area of 111 sq m on a minimum 95-sq-m lot, include three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, a balcony and carport. Each of these homes is elegantly designed with eye-catching details, exuding a subtle charm reflecting the lifestyle tastes of residents.

Vertical residences

The condominium enclave of Pacific Residences features a resort-style ambiance, has three five-story low-rise residential building accommodations for upwardly mobile individuals and their families: one-bedroom units with a 33 sq m of floor area, two- and three-bedroom units with floor spaces of 83 sq m and 91 sq m, respectively. Parking units are available as well. Price begins at P3.2 million.

A RELAXING retreat at day's end

INTERIORS and intricate design details no complement urban lifestyle

Surpassing standards

The Queen Residences offer four models with floor areas ranging from 126 to 177 sq m and lot areas from 60 to 106 sq m.

With high ceilings and modern amenities, these three-story accommodations are luxurious homes by urban standards. The carport is situated in the rear of each unit so that residents may fully enjoy the picturesque San Francisco-inspired streetscape.

Lifestyle amenities

Complementing the array of residential options is a commercial area complete with entertainment and lifestyle facilities. The area will have choice shops, cafés and restaurants to evoke the ambiance of San Francisco's Union Square.

Leisure amenities at Pacific Residences lend a new meaning to "leisure city" living with the existence of a multipurpose hall with a function room, swimming pool and playpark. The outdoors offer instant rejuvenation as well with meditation oasis, trails jogging paths and bike lanes spread around the community.

Strategic site

Pacific Residences boasts an unbeatable location in terms of value and proximity, because it is located on Tagaytay Diversion Road in Tagaytay City just off the C-5 artery within a 5-kilometer radius of Makati. Pare Residences is a near-door neighbor, with Market! Market! a short drive away. The Ortigas business center is a mere 15-minute ride in the north with Quezon City just beyond the South Luzon Expressway and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are equally accessible in the other direction.

For more information about Camella Prestige's Pacific Residences, call 496-2020, 496-8032, 0916.5570880 and 0920.9208752 or log on to www.camella.com.ph.

Birds find sanctuary . . .

From page B2 »

THE ENCHANTMENT of the American South beckons.

JUNIOR bird watchers on the prowl

which yielded many interesting information. Although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has yet to come up with a definitive database, it is estimated that 20 percent of the world's bird species are on the Philippines.

Within two hours of scanning the heavens, the group recorded 23 species. Sighted were Cherished Mynas, Black-naped Orioles, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Coppersmith Barbets, White-collared Kingfishers, Red-naped Barbet, Lesser Coucal, Long-tailed Shrike, Pacific Swallow, Ring-necked Parakeet, Pied Fantail, Striated Grassbird, Slender-billed Crow, Red Turtle Dove, and Jungle Crow. They enjoyed the sunshine to help in leisure sighting activities.

Planting more trees

To further protect this delicate ecological system, Brittany has been planting more trees within Georgia Club, but only those that are native to the area. This assures that the place is fit for the birds to inhabit.

"At Georgia Club, we offer something that others may have overlooked or forgotten," Sadiasa said. "Our recent bird-watching activity was an extension of our family lifestyle. What started by what the four things in life are all about—making up precious memories with our children through the fun times out at the South Luzon Expressway or through the mini fireworks display that we have for property owners' precious heirlooms, painting with the rabbit tracks, tall, evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceilings.

2 model homes

Two model homes are open for viewing—Fairfax and Augusta.

Fairfax is a charming three-bedroom home with a breathtaking view of sky blue and white Cumulus. Augusta is likewise the epitome of timeless elegance in the midst of a modern landscape. A stately presence set against a lush scenery, it has all the classic elements of Southern architecture such as the wrap-around porch, plantation windows, and cream roof and ceiling details.

For property previews of Georgia Club, call 810-2000 or 658-3004 or visit www.brittany-properties.com.

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Wanted: Pinoy aspirants to world's largest architectural award

By Charlie E. Bulan

A LOT OF FILIPINO ARCHITECTS may not be aware of the existence of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

Since 1977, this coveted award has been in the forefront of identifying and encouraging building concepts around the world that successfully addressed the needs and aspirations of societies where there is significant Muslim presence.

"As the world's largest architectural award—with a prize fund of $1,000,000 or over P52 million—the Akaa has consistently honored the understanding and appreciation of Islamic culture expressed through architecture," explained Mounzih Pasquali, a representative of Aga Khan Development Network.

The Akaa is one of the programs of AKDN, one of the world's largest private development networks founded and chaired by Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims.

Acknowledged

"The award has acknowledged several multifaceted works that highlight contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, reuse, area conservation and even landscaping and environmental issues," Pasquali said.

He added that although the award is yet to recognize a project coming from the Philippines, Pasquali is hoping a project will be nominated in time for the next awarding in 2010.

"The Philippines has a significant Muslim population and we would like to inform that the Akaa has no fixed criteria as to the size, type, nature, location or cost of the projects that could be considered as long as they are designed for or used by Muslim communities, in part or in whole or if they give positive impact on Muslim communities and surrounding environment," he explained.

For example, while Akaa recognized Malaysia's ultramodern Petronas Towers in 2004, it also cited an inexpensive yet stately shelter project constructed from ancillary as well as the effort done in rebuilding Habitat Abousseddine (the legendary ancient library built in classical Greek times) in Egypt.

Site evaluation

Pasquali added that winning entries are not judged merely on submitted plans and photographs as the award's Master Jury (an independent team of experts) visit the sites of 40 to evaluate the finalists.

To list, the award has already recognized 92 projects all over the world, while documented over 17,000 building projects that were nominated.

On its 30th staging (covering the years from 2000 to 2007), 315 projects were presented for consideration, 27 of which were renamed cowinners.

Winners

Finally, nine winners were chosen. These were the Sanjay Kanvin Square in Beirut, Lebanon; the rehabilitation of the City of Shibam in Yemen; a central market in Kenchangre, Burkina Faso (in Africa); University of Technology Petronas in Bandar Seri Iskandar, Malaysia; renovation of the security Complex in Kabul, Female Mosque; this Architectural tower in Singapore; Beyal Yeshet lands Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; rehabilitation of Old Walled City in Nicosia, Cyprus; and a school in Budapest in Dinajpur, Bangladesh.

The awarding was held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with no less than Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the award's founder Aga Khan announcing the winners.

"We believe that in the near future, a project coming from the Philippines will not only be cited for providing the country's Muslim communities physical, social and economic needs, but also worthy of the Akaa," Pasquali said.

INEXPENSIVE and quick to build, this 2004 Akaa awardee was sending out unique construction technology that could be replicated anywhere in the world.

RISING 452 meters, the ultra-modern Petronas Towers was recognized by Akaa in 2004.

Birds find sanctuary at Brittany's Georgia Club

TAKING THE WORD "SANCTUARY" to heart, Brittany Corp.'s Georgia Club has created a unique property that endeavors to protect the delicate balance of the ecological system while fashioning a lush residential development.

Within its boundaries is a refuge where local birds have taken shelter, nesting on the multitude of trees that turned their roots to Georgia Club's rich soil. These winged creatures have now become a focal point in this development and a delight for bird watchers.

A proud member of Vista Land, the country's largest home builder, masterful real estate developer Brittany once again sets itself apart with the intuitive approach in property development and the enthusiasm it works with.

"We noticed while developing the area that there were so many birds in the property. So we invited the Wild Bird Club to see what they thought of what for us was a phenomenon. Because, really, you get to see so many in the air and on the ground. It can be a very exciting sight to behold," Brittany's managing director Marylee Sudiacal disclosed.

"Apparently many of the birds moved in with us after their habitat was destroyed in the neighboring properties. They were quite happy to take refuge in Georgia Club even if it's a residential development because from the very beginning, our masterplan took into consideration the existing trees and we've made a conscious effort to maximize their population. These birds literally found a home in Georgia Club."

Bird watching

Brittany recently held a bird watching activity for clients with the assistance of the Wild Bird Club.

AUGUSTA: An epitome of southern elegance

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The Lakeshore is the only world class residential, commercial and recreational development in Central Luzon, located at kilometer 71 of the North Luzon Expressway, Mexico, Pampanga. A 30-minute drive from Balintawak tollgate, 12 minutes from Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and the soon to open Clark-Subic Hi-way, just 5 minutes from SM City Pampanga and Robinsons Starmills.

The timeless elegance of classic Mediterranean architecture combined with the grandest elements of Earth, Water and Sky creates a lifestyle that soars above and beyond the ordinary. This self-contained community boasts of its 12-hectare man-made lake framed by the majestic panorama of Mount Arayat.

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PROMOTING HOOKUP FOOTball, to it always looking for a gap, large and small, to expose. Above all, he is not afraid to take risks. For football star Peter Amores, helping young people learn about life through sports is very much like working for a corporate organization.

The idea came to Peter in the middle of the World Cup season last year. During that time, he felt that he was employed at a dead-end job that would not get him anywhere. He shares, "Yes I was getting paid, yes I was getting all those benefits, but at the end of the day, I'd always think, 'Is this what I really want for myself in the coming years?'"

Taken by the bug, he thought of Futbal, which stands for football as Subic or more soccer, influenced by the Brazilian way of approaching and developing the sport. Peter decided to begin an unprecedented crusade to tell young Filipinos about the wonderful game of football.

Soccer scores is a big pillar in Futbal—where players who don't have the chance to play get to share their real skills. In Brazil, street football is played everywhere. It puts at the backgrounds of the Brazilian football stars reveals that most of them started playing on the streets. Underprivileged compared to those of others in little starting the lives of Pele, Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Rivaldo and further more were up [illegible] because of football.

Peter believes that like in business, being **street-smart is an advantage**. "In football, when you start on the streets, you'll be good at smuggling plays from that one. I've imagined Futbal serving primarily as an introduction to the sport. When we see that a kid has potential, we take him to the clinics and give him scholarships so that he would have the opportunity to be a great football player of the country."

New football generation on the street

Armed with his gut feel ideas, Peter got in touch with Greg Bailey and Mark Ed, a group that promotes alternative rock education for the youth. After further collaborations with Gerard Kallega, Peter started the very first Futbal project—training the kiddos of Banawa three times a week. Without getting a single cent, he taught the kids for more than six months. The twenty kids played barefoot. "After jumping into the mix, I got the inner peace and satisfaction that I was looking for," he tells us.

It's a good thing that Peter's mom was very supportive. Even if he wasn't earning anywhere out of the task, she understood that he was doing something good. Through the **allowance she sent Peter**, the kids were able to munch on something after each training session. "Imagine, I had to share my allowance with the twenty kids because they had to eat after training. I spent like five bucks for each kid—that was enough to buy one to four pieces of pandesal and an extra (water)," Peter recalls.

After training, he talks to the kids about what they learned from practice and how they can apply those little lessons in their everyday lives. "I tell them that they don't need to feel sad with whatever it is that they have now," he says.

He would tell the kids stories of people whose lives have been changed by football. Aiming to inspire, he thinks that these children have way too many negative reinforcements from their immediate environments. He recounts the story of an 8-year old boy who'd show up to practice right after stuffing rights. Peter felt that it would be unfair not to allow the kid to train. He thinks that what the kid really wanted was to have something to eat.

An experience like that has given Peter goosh that he deems irreplaceable. He admits that he has learned from the kids what he should truly value in life. "It makes you connected with who you are and what you have. Maybe God put me there for something," he says.

Alternative music and like—why not sit sport!

Futbal aims to take many the stereotype that football can only be played on the field. The truth is that you can play it anywhere, so long as there's an open lot and you're not causing a nuisance or trouble. Peter tells me that he wants Futbal to be a recognized **array of the Filipinos, similar to** jamboree and Arabiers, but years from now, he dreams of Futbal becoming a household name, with kids inviting their neighbors to play: "Up here occupying Futbal!"

Kapag usapang nutrisyon, may mukha kaming ihaharap.

ALASKA

Football wonderguy Peter Amores is gaining street cred one alternative lesson at a time

DOUBLE HEADER

THAT'S AMORES

FREE KICK. Talented youngsters get a chance at football

CHILD'S PLAY. Football fans Makoto (left) and Ayumi (right) with Peter Amores

Football is a fast-paced, high-energy, running game. Football is an inexpensive sport that has no rules or boundaries, time guidelines and rooms that inhibit you in the game. Indeed doing as a unique way sounds, Futbol even has a wonderful Brazilian beat, Filipinos took no time and instinctively pop music that side-stepping the speed and pace of the game.

In the skills that you don't see in football is, we train with freestyle style. Like, for example, you know something? We do have instinct of wonder ends, the kids, we train. It's good for foot coordination," Peter explains.

Japanese model Gigi supreme model Yukari sees Futbol as a breakthrough development in Philippine football. "I extend my support to Futbol for you to see physical games football with the kids," Gigi Royal is in Pasig. He also demonstrated skills to the cameramen. Peter explains: "Yukari's team were really unbeatable. I'm very much amaze. I love, I'll never be able to explore the experience like the kids had with him—playing football, changing shoes things, the actually thought there were no football here in our country."

Becoming our islands' next wave of athletes

The Project Manager Special Advisor on Sports for Development and Peace Adolf Ogg once said, "Sport is the best school of life." Here are that as a guiding principle for their Soccer organizations. The title "Futbolistas," he claims, is an address that establishes a positive character in sports and promotes a positive in our life.

Appealing on all players belonging to all walks of life, the sport is building bridges across barriers and is the initiative it is immersed to alleviate ethnic like discipline, camaraderie and equality for the biggest young child's future. Football should give it. "Football is a means of service to young people who cannot be approached in any other way."

At the moment, Peter is focused in organizing 3 Futbol volunteers, hoping to recruit at three the younger to form the only recurring non-student boogeymen. "We aspire to give students a kid's eye view of what's going on in the real world. We train them to have social responsibility. Hopefully, because of what Futbol experience, when they graduate, they can be the change they want to be."

Pump up the local adrenaline

Peter wishes that Futbol be recognized not just by the football community but by all Filipinos. He believes that football can help uplift the true state of the country, stressing that if doesn't care about what is Pinoys can easily accept it, it would be football.

Again, it's unjust of football haters in the Philippines with one of Dolo-Jerry Bedico Jr. cannot to good-looking youngsters than over a lot of people true know about, known as "El Matador," Alessandro a full-Pinoy, half-Spanish player in Barcelona. He scored 374 goals in 379 games. Until now, no one has beaten that record. This was back in the days before World War, when football was as an arch-foes in our country thanks to our Spanish colonizers.

But after World War, all our players died and all the football. With wars, that record, because that Pinoys influences—there's a sort of myth that the Americans brought in basket-balls, who couldn't because don't couldn't focus on football. Peter made a very strong point when he said that we cannot love much we cannot in basketball, we'll never beat the OK.

But in football, we have a chance.

"I've been competing since I was young and I know a lot of coaches who bring kids to international competitions. Almost everyone is that Filipino players ages 8-12 are as par with other international competitors. Then say it'll take two years for a nation to build football in a country. But here, we can do it in five years—we have the technology that [for] we have to change the leaders in the football system in the world and build it from the ground [up]," Peter explains.

Running in the right lane

When he was in sixth grade, Peter was made to choose between joining either the basketball or football varsity team, the choice football because he knew he might earn a disadvantage for him in basketball. Playing at a full-height, Peter thinks that nothing compares to the sport.

He believes that football has changed his whole outlook in life, affirming him in the various aspects of his character. He admits, "I have short eyes—wings on my left eye, so sometimes my position in the league is lower-left, a years in my back because I'm a real hard-hitting and spiritual individual, and a aggressive character, also in my back, that because I am, which is what my job comes because stress."

Pursuing on his optimistic rant, Peter tells us that his faith has played a big role in making his way with the task of changing the world into football lovers as a pass. "It's very basic, you see. If you have good intentions, you will secure the good see. If football doesn't achieve its true purpose in a few years, it would be all right—it may not come true in my time, but it will in this—that would be the perfect ending! The important thing is we're trying our best now."

I noticed that in the end, it's really about his cause. "If you need a cocoonful of hard work to excel at a sport, the countrymen should apply the same mentality to life and we'll be OK. I see many Filipinos in my travels, so I call everyone 'kapatid.' That's why I'm trying to help them out, starting with the youth, for the most for the kids get from Futbol, the more they'll spend time with us and the more they'll be safe."

It's no wonder that Peter is climbing every goose for players—especially the Futbol ones. Having made it through the most challenge, top-to-eye-opening identities of his life, he professionals that he has define as better—so for Sunday, to his peers in the volcanoes, to the kids who look to him as a role model. And above all he wants it to himself to fulfill a personal, he wants a good start.

But only is Peter Amores a better player now he is also a better man.

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ALASKA

HEAR! The stirring sounds of alternative rock band Switchfoot on Monday, Sept. 10, at the Cuneta Astrodome (Plaza Rockwell cor. J.Bautista, Pasay City). The band also popularized the song "Dare You To Move" (featured in the film "A Walk to Remember") that is from the CD to usher a benefit concert for the International Justice Mission. Call 891-6000.

The edition of McDonnell-based choreographer Francesca Gaston's Caledonia Johnny (Typanggy Dog, ... Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati). Gaston, expert Fly, swoop, rubba, crunch, or salvage bad balls, broken bowl and nonsense, converting to their refurbished operations. Inquiries and price list gaston on Astral Talk this afternoon at 3 p.m. Call 816-6844.

THE BLOCK

Sept. 8	The Grand Serenade of The U.P. Manila Chorale *A brilliant and internationally-acclaimed youth choir serenades with their amazing voices*	7pm
Sept. 9	Enervon Power Of The Mind *A very special treat to Grandparents with active minds and stronger bodies*	whole day affair
Sept. 16	Ball Blank To The Good Ol' Times *A relaxing rendition of the classics and all time favorites*	7pm
Sept. 21	Martin Nievera Live at The Block *A voice of power waiting to capture our hearts once again*	7pm

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Events at The Lounge

Sept. 9	Grandparents' Day Celebration	5pm onwards
	Vintage Nights with Joe Nicholas' 4-piece Band	4pm-7pm
Sept. 21	Brilliant and Heartwarming Moments with Jose Mari Chan	7pm
Sept. 22	Spectacular Broadway Classics with DLSU Pops Orchestra	8pm

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Super Radar

By Paulo R. Bayot
and Janice Cuenca-Dario

TASTE! authentic Hokkien-style lumpia is the [illegible] which features pilsen "Pork O' Brien" lo, this afternoon. Stomach pregnant say, but guide him Mostly will stand you at the Binondo-Chinatown lobby and guides you through a unique culinary adventure, target Ongpin Street, experience Sidney -shop soup and more as you nibble your way through Chinatown. Visit sidneyellowdoc.com or call 0917-5294653.

FEEL the festive vibe of Brazil as [illegible] kicks off at the Glorietta 2 Park Hardcourts. Sept. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Organized by the Kinabtin Ito Ni at Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines, the week-long festival will feature Capoeira, Folklore and Zipin demos. For more information, visit www.ebcphilippines.com.

EXPERIENCE the best of Broadway as Jim Henson-puppet Muppets take the stage in [illegible], which opens tonight at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium (NCAC/Plaza Ayala Ave., Makati). This R-rated version of "Sesame Street" addresses adult topics such as racism and porning-porn, and even promises "full-puppet nudity." The Tony Award-winning musical stars Rachel Alejandro, Frandelle Ily and Kiza Segovia as the odd-a-operators. Call 891-9999.

Super answers

CELEBRITIES are constantly bombarded with interviews. This time, Super hands the tables on them and gives them the chance to ask the questions—and we want you—yes, you—to give them the answers.

Last week, Aubrey Miles wanted to know, 'Is there life on other planets?' Physics grad student Shem Aguarte answered, "It's [illegible] that there are 200 billion stars in our galaxy alone and there are a multitude of galaxies in the known universe, it would be an awful waste of space if earth is the only one that harbors life. In fact, Drakes equation gives us a way to compute the probability of the existence of intelligent life somewhere else in the Milky Way galaxy. And the result of this equation is that there may be somewhere around 10 to 5000 other intelligent life forms out there, we just haven't found them yet ... or they, uh.

P.S. Crush ko si Aubrey Miles! Hahahahaha."

This week, Shem Aguarte wants to know, "What do you want to be said for the next year life? Someone you love more or someone who loves you more?"

E-mail your answers to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject heading 'super answers.' Your Super answer will be printed next week.

super

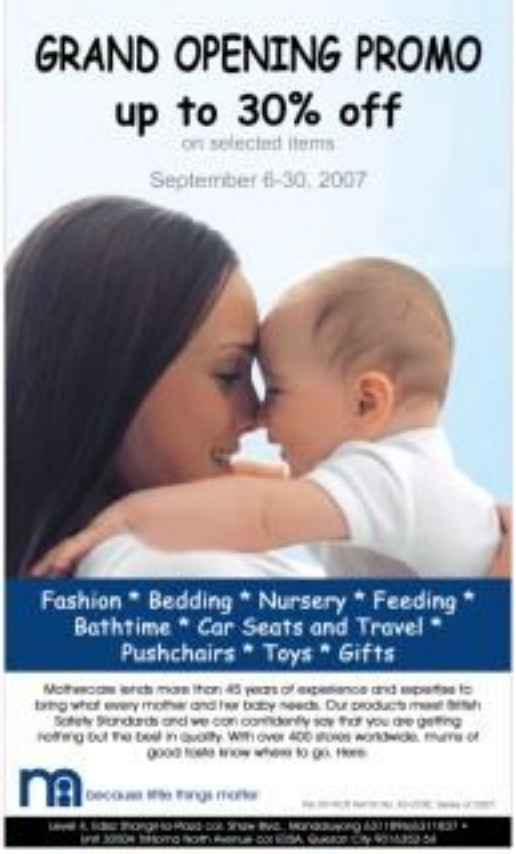
SPACE INVADERS

The fun factory

By Wenggie Gallego
Photos by Joseph Pascual

STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE ON a solid-looking steel table is a huge figurine of Hellboy and Darth Vader, light saber drawn, facing out into the rest of the office of Pinoza Estera Bold Design. The two unlikely partners stare out into a mural of a human outline on the orange walls, unaware that the Hulk in all his green fury stands nestled between a funky orange chair with a furry fabric draped over it and a white one. On the ground, the battle between the Alien and the Predator remains unfinished among a neat pile of books and magazines, laid out on the floor. While these toys and figurines might immediately conjure up the image of a comic-book geek's apartment, this is a place of business. On the aforementioned steel table where Darth Vader and Hellboy look ready to engage in combat with

THE RAN DO



Pamunga Ki

The fun factory

the next passerby; that steel table is where the formal meetings are conducted; where the team of Panzo Ezra Ikoli Design sit and talk things with all their clients.

"I am basically using it to look like a Boho loft or a Boho studio," Lorraine Morien-Gleason, the creative director, shares. "When this was under construction, I was in New York," she adds, probably as an explanation to the visibly lucky office Designer of FXB Design call ... well, their office (marked by a huge open space, there is no working or formal designation surrounded and sleek outside with white lighting, I mention while lighting is customer desires a it's just not lasting, what is her dying's the color orange which, along with black, defines the main color scheme of their office, located in the third floor of the Soho Center in Dragon Avenue, San Antonio Ash Creek Center, the hangout and birthplace source by the kids of FXB and Xavier.

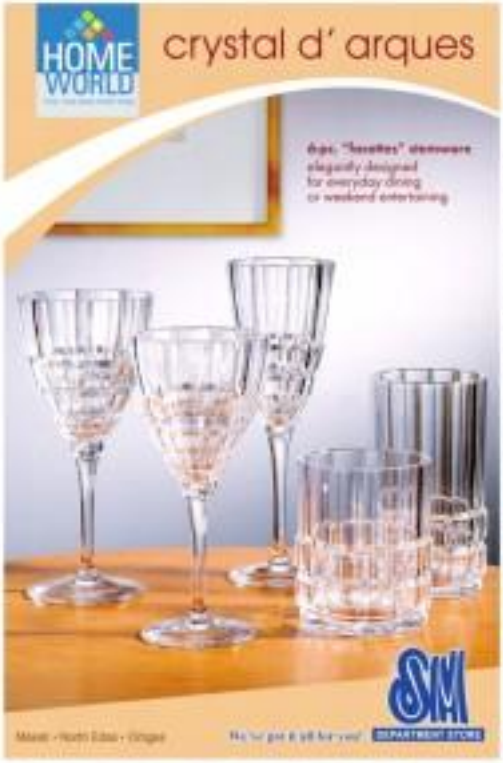
Less the den of design

Stepping through the large glass doors, the first thing you see is an old fashion gas pump, a floating screen with what might be ceramic heads in different postures right in the floor below. "We got that from Garage Pop in Mandaluyong Shaw Blvd," Lorraine points at the gas pump. "We are also in a merger for our DVDs and our Xbox games," she finishes. "Boys games!" "We have our own screen where when we don't have any ideas at the moment we can play X-Box," she adds. Junior Associate, one of FXB's designers, who can raise rally "the rocket guy," smiles. Lines, I am to discover, that the games, be it Xbox or PS3, is more for fantasy.

The FXB Design office is a treasure worthy creative set-up and spin a of the main that conception that natural stunning pump of screen, brisk an impression client feel that industrie Fully Booked, Bumalo, Firestone, the Big Drill and other were travelers brands, the name is to change of a company or a business' identity. For Fully Booked, they came up with the name and logo and incorporated them into the employee's IDs, plastic and paper bag posters and other

AME you are!

WOW! Dancing books!



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The greatest Brazilian export

OUT THE WINDOW
Tats Diaz

IT SHOULDN'T BE NATURE, we are told by a degree of resistance to its onset. And so I wouldn't add Brazil's entry into the Pinoy pop cultural consciousness as an invasion, as many a headline and magazine editorial had announced, prompting a necessary resistance. Rather, I would say more accurately, Brasilindas jumping out of COPA. No, it was more of a close, but usually assimilation. And it all began with the Kiss.

2.2 billion stamps to be specific, which is how many pairs of flexuous lips were pressed to the world's mouth and, third circle the world fifty times. Now if we would take a moment to examine this ubiquitous export, we could extract a distinctive DNA that is unsurprisingly functional: happily responsive, and close to mouth. It's a joie of vivre that's cool, but not cold; hot, but playful, a ball-naked, mature step into to that beachy zone of mind, a teeming oyster-bed of fun.

Fun. Now there's a word that we can all relate to as inhabitants of planet Earth. Yet in spite of its ambiguous yet universal appeal, it's rarely mentioned as an end goal of a wedding, life less ordinary, compared to the usual suspects of fortune and fame. This is where Brasilians, Brasil-somewhere-as-reminder to the rest of the world about the importance of living beyond resistance, of living to the now.

You...it's Brasil's biggest export. It's what those Brasilians have got to offer us as answer to life that's colder than Greta Garbo(ne), intent on living that weird inner bliss a party invitation can go through. Sing. Love. Laugh. Play. Have fun.

The Art is Party

It all seems too simple, really, but this does take until the formula for happiness had to be complicated? And perhaps that's why their culture is so infectious. They're taken but to another level—an emotional, guiltless hyperdrive—a love backed by a passion and purpose that's been honed by centuries to reach the Nobel Jury during the World Cup, or be on the streets during Carnival, back just watch Fatboy Slim chanting "I really love this city" in his Rio joint, it's almost impossible not to turn a little curious, like a wallflower in

the cool kids going wild on the dance floor. It's almost unfair, you think, how the universe and the global mind of Rio.

Brasilipinas 2007

Now for the eventful group hug that is Brasilipinas 2007. It's a month-long celebration of the culture, the arts, the music, and the spaces inspired by Brasil. It is the first of its kind as it brings together several diverse Pinoy groups in their own way, sharing, in their respective sets of experiences, what's through the years had formed a real commonality of performances sharing the spirit of freedom and celebration of the Brazilian culture. Expect a mixed party composed of capoeiristas, samba dancers, fabulicious fire eaters, musicians and percussionists. Call it a mini Carnaval in Manila.

It is spearheaded by Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Filipinas, or EBC Philippines, a martial art and only accredited school of the Brasil-born martial art opposites, applying to similar "disciples of fashion"—it's a martial art that combines fighting skill, music and dance—the school has brought together a unique community fusing music, dance and sports.

Bringing the groups together was natural, but not totally unexpected. It was an organic growth since the groups naturally found themselves alongside each other in the performance space, onstage and in parties together, from the Cultural Center of the Philippines to EBC Philippines' Escola de Samba Negada, Pinoy Ops, Tikoy Aguiluz of Guerrero, Sylvia Mesa, Fitbul, Mango, and so much more.

Global group hug

In mapping thought as it emerge to be passionately processing another culture when we should be more focused on uplifting our own? I mean, did it have to take a Brazilian zipper to put the Filipino flag on their flip-flops for us to dig it as everyday wear?

Sylvia Mesa, a favorite in the local band scene for her quirky original

RAUH-Bilis Capoeiristas ready for Killer Moto moves

City of gods

By Nylo Mesa

IN THE GROWING LEAGUE OF PAPS of all things Brazilian, it's not cool or be inclined to activate them in a manner of ways. It's for those expats, their moneyed-ity, their poetic language, and even their breathtaking geography where's an anthem to taste for what comes from that part of the world.

The recent exports in hot items are ever popular experts, overseas foreign workers of the nomadic kind: Pinoys expats multi-every born home, bringing valuable human resource to host spots developing current economies. This gives rise to the urban legend that should we all declare a nonworking holiday the world over, most business would come to a screeching halt – no customer to wait on, no one to take orders, no one to pretend to be in the White House.

Recently a welcome reversal in the people exporting trend is a slew of attractively packaged foreigners from São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, and Rio de Janeiro, to be specific. Their mission: to set a real fashion scene that's exciting—both over a provocative new demographic to our current local pool, and their functioning good looks.

Designer Genes

"So far as I'm concerned, we need their talent" states Jonas Gaffud of Monster Model, the agency to collect cosponsored category of Filipino talents in both runway, video, and print, and points out, "I don't look at it as a competition between the local and international models as they do have different markets."

Things famous, who comes from the state capital of Minas Gerais is the gem-rich state Belo Horizonte, creates the multi-cultural melting pot as the secret behind a successful genetic mix. Case in point: Fernanda Liberato, a half-naked, mature step into to that beachy zone of mind, a teeming oyster-bed of fun.

Fun. Now there's a word that we can all relate to as inhabitants of planet Earth. Yet in spite of its ambiguous yet universal appeal, it's rarely mentioned as an end goal of a wedding, life less ordinary, compared to the usual suspects of fortune and fame. This is where Brasilipinas 2007 comes in as a reminder to the rest of the world about the importance of living beyond resistance, of living to the now.

You...it's Brasil's biggest export. It's what those Brasilians have got to offer us as answer to life that's colder than Greta Garbo(ne), intent on living that weird inner bliss a party invitation can go through. Sing. Love. Laugh. Play. Have fun.

The Art is Party

It all seems too simple, really, but this does take until the formula for happiness had to be complicated? And perhaps that's why their culture is so infectious. They're taken but to another level—an emotional, guiltless hyperdrive—a love backed by a passion and purpose that's been honed by centuries to reach the Nobel Jury during the World Cup, or be on the streets during Carnival, back just watch Fatboy Slim chanting "I really love this city" in his Rio joint, it's almost impossible not to turn a little curious, like a wallflower in the cool kids going wild on the dance floor. It's almost unfair, you think, how the universe and the global mind of Rio.

Brasilipinas 2007

Now for the eventful group hug that is Brasilipinas 2007. It's a month-long celebration of the culture, the arts, the music, and the spaces inspired by Brasil. It is the first of its kind as it brings together several diverse Pinoy groups in their own way, sharing, in their respective sets of experiences, what's through the years had formed a real commonality of performances sharing the spirit of freedom and celebration of the Brazilian culture. Expect a mixed party composed of capoeiristas, samba dancers, fabulicious fire eaters, musicians and percussionists. Call it a mini Carnaval in Manila.

It is spearheaded by Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Filipinas, or EBC Philippines, a martial art and only accredited school of the Brasil-born martial art opposites, applying to similar "disciples of fashion"—it's a martial art that combines fighting skill, music and dance—the school has brought together a unique community fusing music, dance and sports.

Bringing the groups together was natural, but not totally unexpected. It was an organic growth since the groups naturally found themselves alongside each other in the performance space, onstage and in parties together, from the Cultural Center of the Philippines to EBC Philippines' Escola de Samba Negada, Pinoy Ops, Tikoy Aguiluz of Guerrero, Sylvia Mesa, Fitbul, Mango, and so much more.

Global group hug

In mapping thought as it emerge to be passionately processing another culture when we should be more focused on uplifting our own? I mean, did it have to take a Brazilian zipper to put the Filipino flag on their flip-flops for us to dig it as everyday wear?

Sylvia Mesa, a favorite in the local band scene for her quirky original

RAUH-Bilis Capoeiristas ready for Killer Moto moves

A welcome threat? A look into the Brazilian models invading the local fashion scene.

professionalism and punctuality in high fashion shoots, you don't have to squint hard down. They know how to pose, know what to show—say it! It's a big deal in modeling, they know how to show the leg. When the model marks well, it makes the job easier for everyone involved in the production. Many times in Manila, people think it's the art director or photographer's job to coach the model on how to pose. What I'd like to see developed among local models is better posing, and being more visual in' with modeling itself." Jessi believes that Pinoy models can stand global success with the right work ethic, enumerating top Filipina models who believe in "model class, or even better than a lot of foreign models, the likes of Ria Bolivar, Grace Taglic, Joan Hingpol, and Rissa Santos."

On the supply and demand perspective it's easy to see why they are melting quite a few jobs nowadays. "It's an economic issue more than a political one," Jessi, feels, "clients are specific. They want a fresh face and different personalities the local market is a bit saturated. I really commend those pro people who leave their families and others they're from to go after a career."

Behind the faces

For the agencies, caring for their talents also becomes a priority in order to ensure their performance. Since they do end up coming from far away, By-in inspires a certain amount of investment on their part. Jo Ivanna of Chameleon explains "I try to be there with my models in their first few comfortable working with me." As for Brasil, relative to other countries, the costs can be sizable. "We cover all travel for your talents. You have to look after all their needs while they're here, and try to accommodate their requests (though sometimes they do on the meantime. Overall, we do all right, but there really are times when we end up negative," demonstrating that it's not a fast cash scheme at all. She will even go so far as to help those challenged by the English language to take lessons. "It can take more than a year sometimes in order to see your investment," she adds.

Aside also elaborates on modeling as a commitment, saying "I'm not underrating the Filipino models [at all], however those who want to have a career in modeling should be willing to train and acquire themselves with training and continuous self-development." It's a matter of keeping your eyes on the prize and knowing that though there's more "output than input at the beginning," according to Jessi, "the word will spread and the results [will]."

As with all paths to the top, the deep climb will always be rewarded one way or another. Whether that trek is over the metaphorical mountain of cross-cultural bridging or a literal flight over a few oceans, these imports are blazing a new trail all their own and only to the Philippines but also elsewhere. "Even those [who are leaving it, and] our response to—domestic

GRADUATING COLLEGE STUDENTS NANG MAGKAKA CARRIED AWAY SINA JENNY AT ARVIN...

THREE DAYS NA TAYO RITO... PWEDE 'KO UUWI NI TITO?

AND WHO TOLD YOU NA PAUUWIT-IN PA KITA?

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

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Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

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...THE HEART YOU TEMPT WITH YOUR DELIGHT... WOULD SHUN HIS ALL, TO TEND YOUR FIRE!

TO BE CONTINUED

A. LIPIN

BUTI PA LAKIPASAN KO NA LANG ITO!

ANG?

BEEK! BUTI PA AKO NA SUKAN SA TAUBAK, NA KUNG MALAS GANO'... TAPES !!!

GARFIELD

LINDA, I'M OUT...

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I'M GONNA DO SOME SOMETHING!

NOTHING GOOD CAN POSSIBLY COME OF THIS!

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AAAAAY!

AND DOBLE CORONARIA PO!

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	5		3				4	
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Lotty Mendoza

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Shaira Ridad
Erlinda Revilla
Abigail Galinato
Renee anne ego
Jennibey Tenorio
Paula Martin
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

Arlen Jashua Cenko, Graphics Design

Arlen B. Espinosa, Editor

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

'Large, Live Shellfish' creations at Tin Hau

MAGDARO ORIENTAL, MANILA'S SIGNATURE Chinese restaurant Tin Hau, presents "Large, Live Shellfish" creations from Sept. 1 to 15. Mouthwatering selections of the day's freshest catch, fruit flower and coconut crabs, prawn and reef lobsters, oysters and scallops, giant tiger prawns, to great mussels, and many more of the ocean's bounty, are prepared with the delightful regional dishes and are either steamed, baked, pan-fried, flambéed, or sashimi-sliced.

Some of the specialty dishes from the ocean's delectable bounty that can be enjoyed daily in a special a la carte menu for lunch and dinner include: Deep-fried soft shell crab with vegetable cream served with apricot plum sauce, Steamed crab meat and rice with egg white topped with crisp dried scallops, Sizzling crispy rice cake with assorted shellfish in hot and sour sauce, Stir-fried Boston lobster with ginger and cream chili sauce, Baked crab meat in shell with cheese, and Stockman with hot pot with shellfish, among others.

"Large, Live Shellfish" offering is the latest in the series of Chinese culinary presentations that are periodically staged in Tin Hau to delight diners. Tin Hau's set, a la carte, and Chef's Recommendation menus are also not to be missed daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. for reservations and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750-8888 extension 3432/3434.

Ascott appoints director

ASCOTT MUSEUM TOWER, MAKATI CITY has appointed Geraldine Pobbis as its director of sales and marketing for its flagship property. As such Pobbis will oversee the sales and marketing performances of the property with emphasis on corporate sales, awareness for the group's luxury brand, public relations, and maintaining a strong corporate base for extended stay residents. Pobbis has a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry. Previously director of sales for Global, she was front line sales starting her career in guest services and eventually moved to sales. She was affiliated with establishments such as Intercontinental and Hotel Inter-Continental. She holds a diploma in Commerce and majored in Marketing. Pobbis will be part of the dynamic Philippine team as it continues to deliver the distinct international service that accompanies the Ascott name.

Indulge, unwind, explore and rejuvenate

WHICH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE CRAGGY Bi-Circular Center, a memorable excursion spot situated at Lumban, Laguna. One has to experience it to know how profound its impact would be on a tired soul, as the experience itself is beyond words.

Since it opened in 2005, the place had been home to various singing groups and families from all over the country as well as countries such as Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as Europe. It also has been visited by numerous church groups regardless of denominations and various schools and corporate groups.

Calitzyn Bi-Creation Center is a 7.5 hectare property that is owned and managed by The St. Francis Square Group of Companies (formerly the 6th Group of Companies). It is majestically perched on a gable-laced limestone shoulder overlooking the famous Lumban Calitzyn Gulch. It occupies a beautifully manicured landscape complemented by Rowes Clam A coastline and amenities. The place is breathtaking and gives the senses different life. It is a haven for physical refreshment and a sanctuary for inner healing and peace that will certainly ignite your mind, body and soul.

The resort has a 10-level hotel with 72 well appointed guestrooms that are accommodates up to 5 people. In addition, a number of cottages in the campgrounds and 12 Duplex (downstairs type) units near the dock are other accommodation options for the discerning travelers. There is a wide array of group activities that you can indulge in at the resort. There are resort games and a number of outdoor and indoor spa to name a few. Calitzyn Bi-Creation Center also has a lot of recreational facilities to offer its guests namely pedaling, canoeing and kayaking. A newly constructed artificial rock Olympic size swimming pool right below the existing pool area provides the guests a greater area for water fun. Groups should try the Basketball and the recently built Wall Climbing Facility which is the first and largest outdoor fiberglass wall in the country.

Fishing at Calitzyn Bi-Creation Center is a favorite pastime among a number of guests as the resort while some enjoy boating, back riding in the 'one getaway' appreciate of nature's bounty surrounding them. The "Sky & Skate" at the slope of Calitzyn is a "can't-miss" activity that everybody is encouraged to try. Children can also play video games on Playstation consoles for indoor fun while the adults can sing the night away at another new facility in the resort, the KTV rooms or play billiards, darts and table tennis.

The property has been accredited by the Department of Tourism as a "Class A" resort and has consistently won the cleanest and most landscaped resort competition given by the Laguna Tourism Council.

So if you want to escape the hassle and hustle of the metros, the resort will give you the balance of a breathtaking view of nature and a vast array of possibilities. Life's too short to miss out on these memorable ones, only at Calitzyn Bi-Creation Center.

In addition, they also cater to all types of occasions such as weddings, debuts, seminars, mini-conferences and various events.

For reservations and inquiries, call (+6328)3301-9480, (+632) 632-1018 locals 410 to 417, 258, 351 and 356; telefax (+632)637-7927 or e-mail at reservations.cc@sailgroup.com.ph. Visit the website at www.sailgroup.com.ph to learn more about Calitzyn Bi-Creation Center.

InterContinental Manila and KLM fly in Italian chefs

NORTH SWEETERS

Italy composed of Lombardia, Liguria, Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta is creating doubt at the cutting edge of recent changes in Italian cooking. To this it is a modern reinterpretation city that offers an unbelievable range of cuisine types ranging from traditional recipes to ethnic cuisine influence of its multicultural character.

From Sept. 13 to 27, lovers of good food will have the opportunity to partake of Milanese cuisine and other Lombardian gastronomic favorites at InterContinental Manila and ILM gourmet is bringing in to the Philippines, Crowna Plaza Milan executive chef Michele Feiel and chef de partie Enrico Bergaglio to cook for the Prince Albert Sweeters. Likewise collaborating with them in bringing this Pesto Kilometer to Pesto are Sacchetti Sovengo Brands Inc. Galbani, Locatelli, and Mediterranea International.

For Prince Albert's Pesto Kilometer preparation, diners will encounter flavors, colors, and textures that will appeal to their mind and palate. They will certainly experience a sense of elegance of light-hearted. Together that comes with eating a good Italian meal. Among the a la carte menu items to be relished are Minestrone alla Milanese, Pesto Genovese e Salmon Pelmo, Spaghetti al Ragu dell'ala, Gnocchetti alla Milanese, Filetti di Pesce San Pietro alla Milanese, Torta Paradiso, and Mascarpone alla Zabaione.

The restaurant will be open for lunch Monday to Saturday from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and dinner Monday to Saturday from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday brunch is from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. For reservations, call 810-9711.

Wake up to a 'Juan-derful' day at Kalpo Juan

JUMPSTART YOUR MORNINGS AT KALPO Juan! Start your day with endless refills of Kape Barako at P125 when you order Sinangag Burger and Pandesal for P120. Another yummy recipe serves with Kalpo Juan's version of Sinigang or Tapsilog at P135 and P145 respectively. Add one of all, these breakfast faves are available all day long. So what are you waiting for? Drop by Kalpo Juan and have a 'Juan-derful day'!

Mangia con Gusto

PICK-UP YOUR SUNDAYS AND HEAD OVER to your favorite Italian dishes at Sonia Gusto Italian Bistro's newest Italian restaurant via its Sunday Italian-Style Lunch Buffet starting Sept. 2. Sonia treats diners with a buffet spread of authentic Italian cuisine masterfully prepared by Italian chef Alessio Lonno, showcasing a wide array of cheeses, fresh salads, savoury from seafood, delectable roast entrees, and luscious desserts, paired with selected Provence sparkling wine at P888 net per person. Sonia is located at the Intramuros Board Court Hotel Metro. For reservations and inquiries, call 887-2222 extension 2202.

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Nina P. Bolo

Glowing Brad, Colin-Ewan tandem make Venice scene

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rubert U. Anglo-Aler

Brad made the most of Venice's famed romantic ambience with 'Angie'

VENICE, ITALY—As we write this, the jury of the Mostra (Venice) Documentary section was scheduled to watch Lav Diaz's "Kagadanan sa Banwaan Ning Mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)" in two installments.

Paolo Bertolin, who's helping his festival by coordinating such Lav, told us that the jury's screening for "Encantos" was set for last Thursday and yesterday.

Lav, Paolo and the festival organizers hosted a collective sigh of relief when the "Evasion" topper finally arrived here. Finishing the post-production work on the nine-hour movie in time for its screening was an exciting saga for its director.

Challenges

His challenges did not end there, however. When Diaz and members of the cast were ready to leave for Venice, visa and flight booking problems made the adventure more suspenseful.

With Lav, who was also the film's cinematographer and editor, were production supervisor Laurel Dennanniic; production designer and actor Bimbo Perez; actors Roeder Camanag (who plays fictional poet, Benjamin Agrasol), Perry Dizon (Theodore) and Amalia Vetasio (cellodryer).

The trailblazing filmmaker wrote us via e-mail that he was grateful to the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) for giving them Crystal grants, and to Cirelle Calderon-Alvarez for helping secure the group's visas and plane tickets.

Coverage

We continue our Venice Film Festival coverage:

The shots gave him away. While we were in line for a press screening of Brad Pitt's "The Assassination of Jesse James," we couldn't help but notice the shoes of the film star behind us: The black sneakers were custom-printed with logos of movie companies—from Pixar to Sony Pictures.

They could only be the shoes of a cinephile. A quick glance at his mate's badge proved us right. It was Richard Corliss, who has been covering films for Time magazine since 1980. He was living up with his wife, Missy, who writes for time.com.

We asked the film critic if the film star filled as far in the bed. Did he ever get tired of this name? "No," came the reasoned film critic's quick reply, accompanied by a smile. In fact, after Venice, Richard planned to return to New York, for a day before going off again—this time to Toronto.

Golden boy

At the Excelsior Hotel, Brad Pitt, looking like a golden boy again, told us that Angelina and their kids were also in town. "We're a band," he quipped. "We stick together."

The star revealed that, while they may have brought the children, her and "Angie" made the most of Venice's famed romantic ambience by having a "Mom and Dad" dinner out the previous evening.

With a chuckle, he recalled the time when his movie, "Fight Club," premiered in Venice almost a decade ago. Brad shared: "Edward Norton and I had a few drinks, so we were the only ones in the audience laughing at some of the lines in the movie."

Writer-director

On the red carpet of the official screening of his Colin Becker-Ewan McGregor starrer "Cassandra's Dream," Woody Allen held hands with his wife, Soon-Yi. The writer-director looked embarrassed about all the public adulation.

Inside the Palazzo del Cinema, the genius behind such films as "Annie Hall" and "Hannah and her Sisters" appeared unphased, especially when the crowd cheers in front and applauded as his latest film's credits rolled.

The following day, on Hotel Des Bains' terrace, Woody professed his new status as a director shooting mainly in Europe, as projects financed mainly by European investors. He quipped, "Who would have imagined that I would be a foreign filmmaker? It's been my dream to become a foreign filmmaker!"

The shy director, noted for conducting very short chats—as in, less than 30 minutes—with actors he's going to cast, hired Colin and Ewan to play brothers who have issues seeing them together. Deal!

Sheer luck

Through sheer luck and those two actors' brilliant acting skills, they proved to have great chemistry and are completely credible as brothers in "Cassandra's Dream."

Colin shared, "Working with Woody disproved my belief that I like to work with as much interaction from directors as possible!"

Ewan, partnered with Woody's friend, Hayley Atwell, in the interview, disagreed. He maintained that Woody is very detailed as a director—through his script.

What are connected on the good chemistry he and Colin have onscreen, Ewan said that before they started filming, Colin came to his house. "We became close almost immediately," Ewan disclosed.

Melancholia

Wes Anderson's films such as "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Life Aquatic" are tinged with melancholia. Watching Wes' competition entry "The Darjeeling Limited," to which Owen Wilson forces his two brothers (Adrien Brody and Jason Schwartzman) to go with him on a spiritual trip through India, left us many melancholic shots mixed, in light of Owen's recent suicide attempt in "Tenenbaums," which Owen cowrote with Wes, his brother Luke plays a character who tries to commit suicide.

Car accident

Owen's head and face are partially bandaged almost throughout "Darjeeling," since he got into a train who survived a car accident. The actor was

(PAGE 11)

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NOW SHOWING

Indie experiment pays off for Piolo Pascual

By Rito P. Asilo

"Chop Suey"

Dir. Cathlyne O. Camarillo

S: Piolo Pascual, Dimples Romana, Andrea del Rosario, Rivkin Randle

LIKE THE SCRUMPTIOUS VEGGIE DISHE-podge that's made more delectable by its starch-thickened sauce, Catherine Camarillo's thoughtful indie *Annasiete Trainer* is a delectable cinematic chow-fun where rom is better than its occasionally disjointed parts.

For six months, successful Chinese-Filipino businessman Jimmy Wong (Piolo Pascual) hides up in his room after girlfriend Claudia breaks off their pre-arranged marriage to be with the macho reality loser.

Jimmy's pathological depression soon wreaks havoc on his three younger sisters, Mandy, Claire and Leslie, whom he's been taking care of since the demise of their parents.

The three women must deal with their respective problems while their beloved-but-flaky older brother wrestles with his own demons. Hindering dynamic Cinderella Pesarico can't wait for the duo's wedding so she can join her OFW lover, Alex, abroad to the privacy of her room, she's always seen in front of her webcam-compatible laptop flirting with her paramour. Her dilemma: She is also screened.

Waldrow Leslie Rivkin Randle is a self-center agent who's torn between her cousin, the favored wealthy Chinoy twod and his college Pinay computer boy, whom she likes better. The constantly clashes with her traditionally conservative sister, Claire (Dimples Romana), a lonely and introvert housewife who's emotionally wounded by her inability to give her arrogant husband a son.

The only time Claire escapes her dreary life is when she's in the theater—in full command of everything, as she tastefully chooses the ingredients of her famous chop-suey dish!

While it's hard to suspend disbelief that Piolo is Chinoy, the actor's valiant move to go indie nonetheless pays off. His "supermom" also reminds us of *Lady Iron Tutu*' admirable foray into digital indies.

PASCUAL, Valiant

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PROMENADE
4 DISTURBIA 5 NANCY DREW

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GLORIETTA 4: 1 DAYWATCH 2 SKINWALKERS 3? DISTURBIA
GREENBELT 1: 1 DAYWATCH 2 NANCY DREW
GREENBELT 3: 1? NANCY DREW 2? DISTURBIA
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1? DISTURBIA 2 NANCY DREW
AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 EVAN'S LABYRINTH 2 PLANET TERRAN 3 RISE 4 THE INVASION
MARKET! MARKET!: 1 CHOPSUEY 2 SKINWALKERS
TRINOMA: 1 EVAN ALMIGHTY 2 SKINWALKERS 3 DAYWATCH 4 NANCY DREW 5 CHOPSUEY 6 1408 7? DISTURBIA

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls
Glorietta: Christmas Artisan Traders Association Exhibit, September 7 to 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt: Jazz Mojito, September 12, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at Piazza
Alabang Town Center: Atlanta's Ballet, September 11 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu: 32nd Taste of American Idol Live!, September 28, 6 PM, Ondoy (Cinema 1)
Market! Market!: Lecture Mall Show, September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Christ Light: Repository Philippines presents Disney's UNDERBELLA Kids at SM's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala Museum: Artisphere: Homage to the Kamlayanan, August 28 to September 16, 2007. For more info, pls. call 729-7157 to 61 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma: Samsung Exhibit, An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones, September 14 to 16, 10am to 9 pm, Starbucks 1 Food Choices Level 2

EXCLUSIVE
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New TV shows vie for viewers' avid attention

By Nestor U. Torre

TELEVISION HAS BECOME such a competitive business in the Philippines that one major network misses a new hit out now shows practically every other week. And they aren't budget productions, either—in fact, they cost millions to produce. But the networks are happy to invest in them, because even bigger profits in terms of advertising revenues are in store.

Three singers

Recently, Channel 2 unveiled its latest dramatic telenovela, "Pangarap na Bituin," with Sunday Consuegra, Rita Daniela and Maja Salvador playing the loved (loves, singers who lost their parents when they were kids and now both love and are unhappy with each other.

In fact, the series' opening episode starts with Sandy's character swinging from the trees at the height of a major tsunami!

Naturally, this throws her return for a loop, and leads to flashbacks to reveal the roots of their unusual disaffection.

Those flashbacks appear to show that the three girls' parents, played by Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong, both died during a violent eruption of Mayon volcano.

In addition, another character portrayed by Ronnie Ricketts, drew interest. In fact, publicity—What's a particular TV heavy to call on his Bicopic team?

If the three characters did in fact perish during the volcanic eruption, one wonders why the three sisters share appearances in their near-identical appearances.

Which can, the "twist" first episode sets us focused on its flashbacks. Did the three young leads didn't have enough time to establish their characters. The biggest exposure was given to Sandy's aggressive character, who tearfully fainted on at her siblings in an extended monologue.

Also, Sandy was and up to the therapy task, as she screamed in her appropriately-overwrought, outburst much interviewers and "being" a therapy for her. Surely she'll be made to play truly challenging roles before she's ready to do full justice to them.

Game show

The other new program we caught was the game show "I vs. 100," helmed by Edu Manzano.

The new program makes a great first impression with its high-tech set. Its format is even more interesting—because, as its title states, the show pits one celebrity contestant against a "mob" of 100 rivals.

The idea is for the main contestant to give the right answers to questions that the "mob" also responds to. When he "survives" a round, he wins a cash prize determined by the number of mob members who answered the question incorrectly.

After a number of rounds, only a few "mobsters" are left, and the cash prizes are sequentially raised. As the program periodically mentioned, the remaining members of the mob please make the contestant to continue playing—because, if he or she fails the next question, they get to split his or her winnings!

The new game show has been having swift wins, but with only a few new points due to the quality of questions asked, and the interest and entertainment value of the celebrity contestants tapped to be the "I" (versus "the 100.")

As times, in fact, we wonder why a contestant has been picked, when some of the "mobsters" appear to be livelier and more interesting than the featured celebrity.

MANGHIG. His new game show makes a great first impression.

Glowing Brad . . .

From page 11

DAZZ. Photobook screening.

ubiquitous to be here for the film's screening, which was received with warm applause.

Tito was overjoyed by the review. Marvin before "Darjeeling" was "Friend Chronicles," a short film also directed by Mito, starring Jessa and Natalie Portman.

E-mail remarks: [redacted]@inquirer.com, and read his blog, "The Impulse Report," on www.inquirer.net/specialreports

Indie experiment . . .

From page 11

Brian Tagache's well-intentioned 2005 drama, "Miss Dizzy"?

The solon confesses his character's lonely time with a vibrant, artistic lady that touches. He doesn't say much, and he's not asked to do a lot, either. However, in one scene after the character's breakdown, he overacted by all standards, including walking, he still looks as fresh and as dashingly down-cast as ever!

It doesn't help, either, that portions of the film's English subtitles (such as when the Indonesian, which was further dragged down by using grammar Dasaphe: "Why did they record here?") —blur to incomprehension. An awkward plot featured's shoddy medical records—particularly about Sunny's depressive disorder, which is to say the least, "under-researched." (At the film's professed depression is concerned, we acknowledge that people have different ways of dealing with pain and loss).

The movie's experimental flow also dips in the story's middle third before its pure perks up for the suspenseously upbeat finale.

Music qualities notwithstanding, Cinemalibre's direction is a breath of fresh air cinematic so that underscores the importance of family in every movie life.

It also boasts of above-par technical accomplishments values that benefit largely from Mel Rapsin's storyboard screenplay touches and Dino Andreescu's well-framed script.

The production is an acting showcase for the beautiful Barbie Forteza, who impresses with her nuanced characterization of a woman who's deprived of a happier material life that could have been, but had she chosen love over tradition and obligation.

Classic Nick shows. . .

From page 14

Drew Arellano for Gargol

Actor Gargol Orit Pirah is on leg endorsed by TV host Arellano Jeff and shows the "breath of fresh air" Drew Arellano. Looking and smelling good are important, especially when Drew conducts interviews, so he regularly gargles with the all-natural mouthwash that uses 100 percent pure essential oils.

ARELLANO. Pitchman for new mouthwash.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 1:40 p.m., "Sophie." Tomorrow at 3:50 p.m., "Pretenderland." Sept. 10 at noontime, "Pride and Prejudice." Sept. 11 at 11 a.m., "Shakespeare in Love." Sept. 13 at 11:45 p.m., "Birth." Sept. 15 at 6:45 p.m., "Intimacy." Sept. 16 at 8:30 a.m., "Dangerous Liaisons."

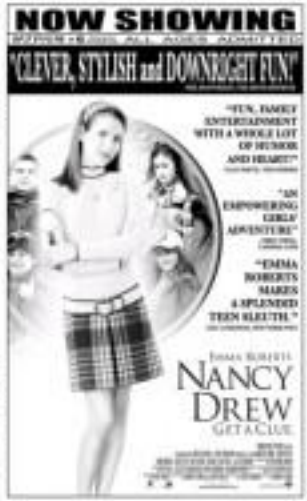
On Cinemax today at 9 p.m., "Constantine." Tomorrow at 9:35 a.m., "Apollo 13." Sept. 10 at 7:30 a.m., "Chinatown." Sept. 11 at 6 a.m., "Morgan's Ferry." Sept. 12 at 2 p.m., "Summer Holiday." Sept. 13 at 5:20 p.m., "Moonlight Bella." Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m., "Wet and Wild."

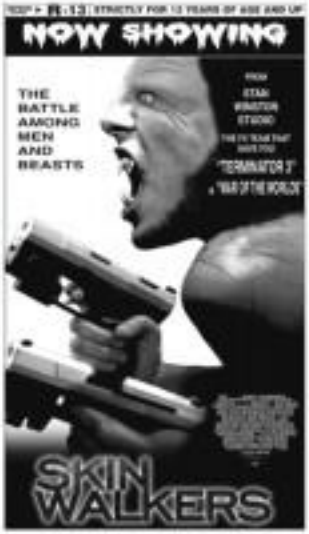
'In Love with Mandaw'

Current chart-topper "In Love with Mandaw" showcases 18 of the popular song-and-its bestsellers, from "Somewhere Down the Road" and "Copacabana" through "Looks Like We Made It" and "Total Eclipse of the Heart" to "Ready to Take a Chance Again" and "Time Stands."

Car Jima reunites with mates

Car Jima College, formerly Holy Cross College of Dipio, calls on its alumni to join its week-long activities starting Sept. 22 in C.K. tanks to 4008 year. Call or text Gloria Gravesda at 0919 680 8112.





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Kaisa's musical celebrates harmony in diversity

By Rica R. Rubio

ON SEPT. 14 AND 15, ALL roads for the country's Chinese-Filipino community lead to the Kaisa Pilipinas Kasalukuyan Foundation's building and theater in Intramuros for the foundation's fundraising 20th anniversary presentation, the glittering musical revue, "Tsinay—Kaisa Ka!"

Kaisa's latest production, which tells the story of a young Chinese-Filipino who's contemptuous of his heritage and identity but later learns to appreciate them in the fast-paced course of the story, gives us new reason to celebrate the beauty of diversity in Philippine society. (Call 527-6001, 661-0551, or e-mail kaisa@pldtyahoo.com.)

Flashbacks

The theater production's narrative flow glides swiftly as it stages snippets of the Chinese-Filipino experience through the centuries. Chinese-Filipino characters (from Gen. Pantaleon Jose Bikal in Hay Ring in St. Lorenzo Ruiz) pepper the flashbacks, which also include the Chinese Parian massacre and the Legend of the Pagoda, in the more contemporary issues that affect the modern Chinese-Filipino.

Per us, the musical is a homecoming of sorts because, exactly 10 years ago, we played one of the earliest lead roles in our theater career, when Kaisa had Musical Theater (Philippines) enlist us to play Xiaohu Igotindalo in "Tsinay Mga Kuwentong Buhay."

This year, we return to the Kaisa fold to play another hero (Jose Rizal)—and a host of other memorable characters.

During lulls in rehearsals, we chatted with Kaisa's highly regarded Teresita Ang-See:

Why did you decide to stage "Tsinay, Kaisa Ka!"? And why the celebration's scope of Filipino society? Do you think the Pinoy audience will be able to relate to something like this?

We want the Pinoys to realize that, like any other people, the Chinese can't be typecast into just a single face—be it as compradors as the local persons. The stereotypes of the rich Chinamen as the employer must be debunked. The different faces of the Chinese-Filipino are no different from those of the Pinoy. We defy typecasting.

Why was Kaisa founded? The public normally sees it as a crime-monitoring and crime-busting body, but obviously, it's more than that.

Kaisa was founded in 1992 in response to the pressing need to rebuild a nation devastated by decades of dictatorship and corruption. The national democratic space gave ample opportunities for NGOs to fill up the needs that government failed to address—like tapping the Chinese-Filipino's potential for nation building. Never in our imagination did we think that one day, Kaisa would be called upon to give a face to victims of kidnapping.

Sense of security

Its order for the Chinese to do what they do well...that is, business—they must have peace of mind and a sense of security. This was badly threatened, and capital flight was discouraging what we had tried to help build up...confidence for our country, for every hiding victim who shared shop, fellowship and life, came into being highlights the success of the integration process.

The Chinese have become comfortable with their Filipino identity of being a part and not apart of mainstream society.

Eye-opener

Where do you see "Tsinay, Kaisa Ka!" going? Do you intend to stage it around the country? The material is an eye-opener to both Pinoys and Chinoys. It can break some social stereotypes and cultural containers.

Yes, we will have repeat runs on Nov. 3 and 4, and there have been many inquiries about showing it outside Manila.

What do you relish to achieve with the staging of this latest musical? Do you see the group stretching its wards and influence many and more through the arts?

Yes, the cultural message of the show is to enhance understanding and awareness about the less role and impact of the Chinese-Filipino in all events that shape the Philippines as a nation. That includes the arts—music, drama—not just business.

Benchmark

The position in the show about Limoznay Ong is a true-to-life story. He is the benchmark for a development worker—a true volunteer. But even, Pinoys can do better than what he has done. He had a choice to stay home and play the role of an ethnic Chinese icon—but he chose to live his life for others, to burn his candle to give light to others.

FIREFIGHTERS sing about courage and sacrifice in rousing production number

MUSICALS cast members pay tribute to the heroes of Chinese history

JOSE Rizal Chan renders beautiful song about our children's future

Chinese-Filipinos lost their jobs. Kaisa enabled just have stayed as a silent bystander when all these things happened?

What do you think is Kaisa's biggest achievement?

The building of the Kaisa Heritage Center is a proud monument that Chinese-Filipinos, at last, have had claim to their rightful place in the Philippine state. That the center, which houses the Balay Tsinoy Museum of the Chinese in Philippine life, came into being highlights the success of the integration process.

The Chinese have become comfortable with their Filipino identity of being a part and not apart of mainstream society.

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MUSICALS cast members pay tribute to the heroes of Chinese history

Groove to the sound of the 60's! Take your folks to Enchanted Kingdom's Grand Blowout!

Hear the classic tunes of The Beatles and Frank Sinatra as performed by The Bloodbuckets, Bloodcrumbs, The Tongues' Brothers and many more. Bring the entire family! Invite grandma and grandpa and you can even get them free tickets. So let the road down south, head on to Enchanted Kingdom and celebrate with the one-of-a-kind family treat that's sure to take you down memory lane.

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September 1 to October 14	Monday & Tuesday Wednesday to Friday Saturday & Sunday	Closed 10am to 7pm 10am to 10pm

*Fireworks at 8pm on weekends and holidays

Promo offer not valid on event of the Enchanted Kingdom Fiesta (last three months). Promo valid from September 1 to October 14, 2007 only.

Come in a group of 5 or 6 and get as much as two (2) tickets absolutely FREE for your folks ages 60 and above, and for all APP servicemen and officers! Just present a valid ID as proof of age/APP status and buy one of these participating Pepsi Cola products from the Enchanted Kingdom Promo Cart ticket counter:

"MAN O' REAL MONSTERS." Perks of the monster trade regale viewers.

Classic Nick shows make comeback

WELL-LOVED SHOWS FOR young viewers from the '90s are making a big comeback on Nickelodeon every Friday and Saturday morning Sept. 14 at 11 p.m. Fans up to "Salute! Be a! Melanie," and "Rugrats," Nickelodeon Academy, where students like Kimmie, Mike and Chloe learn the rewarding perks of the monster trade.

In "Clarissa Explains It All," Clarissa and her best friend, Sam, manage to keep their sanity by sharing with each other the ridiculous stuff students have to contend with in high school.

In "Cousin Skeeter," a disabled kid and rap artist turns Bobby's world upside down. "Rocket & Kel" (upside down Thompson and Kel Mitchell as two really cool cats.

"Rocko's Modern Life" is about the misadventures of an Australian wallaby. "The Adventures of Pete & Pete" features an unusual brothers who find meaning in the things that make life better—and weirder.

"The Amanda Show" is an unexpected sketch comedy starring Amanda Bynes. "The Ren & Stimpy Show" welcomes viewers to its cartoon world, where things are definitely not what they seem. And "Kablam!" compiles an overflowing array of animation-packed interstitials each week. Log on to www.nickplat.com.

MONTAGE

'Salute Filipino'

Launching the MCO Arts Festival dance season is "Salute Filipino," featuring performers from the Bella C. Daniels School of Ballet, Dance Center Company and Bonifacio. On Sept. 22 at the RCO Binalot Theater, Makati City. Call 840-7000, loc. 2010.

On Cartoon Network

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Fast Forward" telecasts Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m., after "Ed, Edd n' Eddy" at 4:30 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m., "Chowly Weekend Toons" with Bugs Bunny and other Looney Tunes characters. Sept. 15 from 6 a.m. to noontime, a marathon airing of "Teletubbies" and "Dora Explorer" closes it "Nickmania 2."

On National Geographic Channel

Sept. 12 at 9 p.m., "Situation Critical: Hollywood Heroics." Sept. 13 at 9 p.m., "Megamovers: Jet Engine Test Driver." Sept. 17 at 7 p.m., "The Living Weapon" focuses on biological warfare. Sept. 20 at 11 p.m., "I Didn't Know That" answers questions related to the human dish puppets, bedbugs and speed eating pills.

On Studio 23

Tomorrow and on Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m., "Answering the Call: Ground Zero Volunteers" hosts on the 9/11 rescuers.

Mondays at 11 p.m., "Rachel Ray" guests (Sept. 10) Michael J. Fox, (Sept. 17) Katharine McPhee, and (Sept. 24) "Idol" host duo, John Stamos.

TURN TO PAGE 19

'Rogue Assassin'

12. Pitre: team up with Statham in action thriller

In the new thriller, "Rogue Assassin," Jet Li and Jason Statham are cast as adversaries set on a violent collision course in the Asian underground.

Li has killed Statham's friend, so Statham vows to gun him down. As finds Li during a bloody war between a Chinese mob leader and a Yakuza boss...only to discover that Li is not what he's believed to be!

SATURDAY Special

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Shia LaBeouf needs to stretch his thespic limits /G4

JESSICA JONES: Plays a chef in the romantic comedy, "No Reservations."

Much-missed stars make comebacks in wide range of film types

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME STARS APPEAR IN A COUPLE OF films a year, but others stay away from the big screen for years on end. They have different reasons for doing so.

For instance, Julia Roberts took time off to have babies before her biological clock ticked its last. Jodie Foster spent years waiting for the right script to come along. And Catherine Zeta-Jones enjoyed domesticity with husband Michael Douglas and their children as much that she practically had to be pried away from them to shoot her new movie.

FOSTER. Can as well styled vigilante in "The Brave One."

Long hiatus

Well, the important thing is that some much-missed established stars are being seen on movie screens again, after a long hiatus.

Opening soon in town is "The Brave One," where Jodie Foster plays a self-styled female vigilante who, reportedly "recreates" the evil men who cruelly murdered her happy life.

The role is custom-tailored, because the quest for justice through violent means is seen as a no-no in legal circles. The fact that the protagonist in the film is a female makes it even more of a magnet for heated discussion.

For her part, Catherine Zeta-Jones has vowed to make her comeback of sorts in a romantic comedy set—as a gourmet kitchen she plays an accidental chef who is so focused on her career that she only has eyes for others—until a real chef comes along and makes her sizzle.

At first, it's sort of jarring how the normally cuddly nurse into satirist Famous Property chastised and transformed, she belatedly realizes that there's much more

'Suroy-Suroy sa Sugbo'

FROM AUG. 30 TO SEPT. 1, WE SPENT THREE days visiting 14 towns and cities in the southwestern part of Cebu, with 270 local and hold-keyon tourist led by Cebu's energetic Gov. Gwen Garcia.

All the 14 towns' mayors prepared a musical

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LAST LEGION

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DEETUMBIA
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SKINWALKERS
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BOURNE ULTIMATUM
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EVAN ALMIGHTY

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RUSH HOUR 3
LAST LEGION

SM CITY BACOOR
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DEETUMBIA
SKINWALKERS
MY KUYA'S WEDDING
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1408
INVASION

'Foster Child' in cinemas on Sept. 12

BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "FOSTER CHILD" which had its world premiere at the recent Cannes International Film Festival, will open in cinemas across the country starting Sept. 12.

Featuring the award-winning performance of Ehrrry Pie Pinache (best actress, Ninth Osian's Cinefan International Festival in India), the movie tells the story of Thelma (Pinache), a foster mother from the slums who receives a meager P1,500 monthly stipend for every child placed in her care.

Slice of life

Osian's Cinefan hails Pinache's acting as "a performance that has managed to make even a fictional story look very much like a slice of life." Pinache's character is based on a real life foster parent working for a Philippine non-government organization, Kalinga Bahay Foundation, which helped the camera play the role with such authenticity.

PICACHE with her young ward (Kier Segumbi) in Mendoza's film.

Shot in real time mode, director Mendoza, with script by Raldeon Jower, presents with deep empathy the situation of most foster parents for him in a third world country like the Philippines.

Standing ovation

Audiences at the Cannes International Film Festival gave the film a 10-minute standing ovation during its world premiere. "Critics find the film authentic and moving. Filipinos are portrayed as matter-of-factly caring people," adds Jeffrey Tan, the film's producer.

"Foster Child" is currently making the rounds of the film festival circuit, with scheduled screenings at the Montreal World Film Festival this month and at the Pusan International Film Festival in October. It's produced by Swiss Films and distributed internationally by Epicenter Film Canada.

The CompanY, UP Jazz Ensemble in 'big band' concert

THE INSIDING VOCAL QUINTET THE CompanY, joins forces with the UP Jazz Ensemble under the leadership of Ramon Muquet to bring to the stage the "big band" concert, "Let's Kick Some Brb666! (a big band celebration)."

The show begins to run on Sept. 15 at the Sirao Convention and Trade Center in Sirao City at 8 p.m. The gala performance is scheduled on Oct. 13 at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines at 8 p.m.

"Let's Kick Some Brb666! features a wide array of musical genres that combine The CompanY's sound harmonies with the UP Jazz Ensemble's sonic wall of sounds.

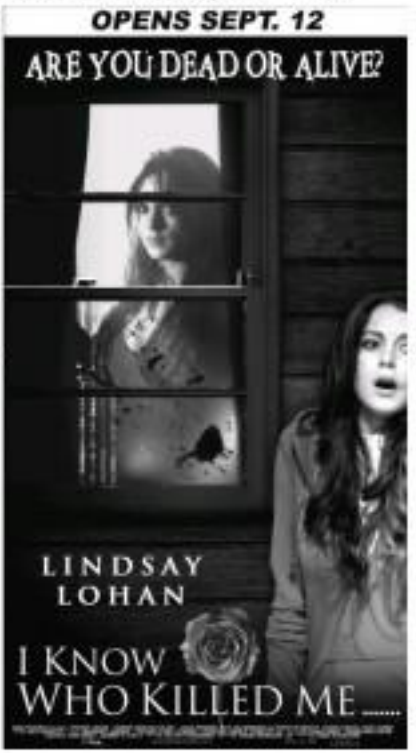
Contemporary sound

Act One will showcase the musical genres of jazz, standards, swing, classical music, a capella, Original Pilipino Music (OPM) and Broadway tunes. Act Two tackles the contemporary sound of rock, bossa nova, rhythm and blues, Motown, jazz fusion, Latin, novelty, OPM and mainstream pop.

"Let's Kick Some Brb666" is written and directed by Mon Orbe, with choreography by Gwenielle Tapiat. Assisted and helped by Divas Hipolito as Young Executive by Gerald Gonzales as and marketing by Ultimate Entertainment.

For the Diwata concert, tickets are available at LEC Performing Arts Center, call 500-3844; Novia Boutique (632) 3667; Resort Hotel (027 890-6), and at the Lutheng Business Inn (221-1847 or 221-1864).

For the CCP gala, tickets are available at National Bookstore, the CCP Box Office (832-1594, 832-1125 loc 1409-1410), or log on to www.ticketworld.com.



Shia LaBeouf needs to stretch his thespic limits

LABEOUF: Should give his boy-next-door character a rest and opt to do a challenging drama—if he's up to it.

By Mentor U. Torre

AFTER STARRING IN MOVIES LIKE "Transformers" and "Bobby" Shia LaBeouf has emerged as the current prince of Hollywood. Viewers love his fair-thanks, boy-next-door projections, prompting producers to profitably cast him in one project after another.

The fact that he has only swerlage looks makes him seemingly accessible to many young viewers, thus considerably boosting the empathetic level of his portrayals.

Warmth and spontaneity

In "Transformers," Shia turned in a delightfully natural and vulnerable performance that lent warmth and spontaneity to what would otherwise have been just a slick, high-tech, sci-fi robot caper.

With less screentime to prowess its human dimensions, the production hit it big as a sci-fi movie with heart and humor. Yes, if its evil robots decongealed ever to good 'bots, the world could come to an end...but it would be a fun trip, nonetheless!

Months after "Transformers" was shown locally, another LaBeouf warrior, "Disturbia," is currently showing to town. It turns out that this chiller was released to the future before "Transformers," but we want to see it just the same, to see how Shia's talent and appeal would hold up, this second time around.

In "Disturbia," Shia plays a teenager who's restricted to his house for three months after a run-in with the law. While insensely meditating on his travel for weeks on end, he spies on his neighbors, and comes to the shocking conclusion that one of them is in fact a serial killer who lures these women to his well-appointed home in order to torture and kill them.

Naturally, he wants to expose his neighbor and so the cops on him—but nobody believes him! Toward the end, his own mother is about to become a victim, so Shia can't do everything in excuse her.

Comeuppance

The film is a patent combination of teen angst and ultraviolent adults, but falls short of being a winner, because the serial killer is allowed to get away with so much. He does get his comeuppance in the end, but by then, our disbelief has been suspended for so long that real empathy and involvement have been pretty much unheard on the rise.

But, our main focus today is on Shia's performance. How well does he do in "Disturbia's" antsy and misunderstood young protagonist? Well, he's still cute and appealing, and he sets up an entertaining motto—but, when push comes down to it, his performance here is generally a mere repetition of his appealing frisky portrayal in "Transformers."

Vehicle

The fact, therefore, is that the very likable young actor will turn out to be a one-note performer if no one film to the rescue. This is a line he definitely doesn't deserve, so he should try mightily hard to make his next film a totally different vehicle. He should give his signature boy-next-door character a rest and opt to do a challenging drama, if he's up to it.

MMM/MT

Tribute to the gallant Filipino soldier

SINGING GALE: First major concert.

SINCE 1986, THE Ang Ito Kapisan Foundation (AIK) has been supporting the families of non-commissioned soldiers who have been killed or permanently disabled in combat.

AIK president Ramon Bedoya reveals that over 8,000 soldiers have been killed in action since 1987. Currently, the foundation helps some 4,000 families through financial assistance, scholarships and livelihood projects.

In support of AIK's laudable endeavor, and to pay tribute to the gallant Filipino soldier, singer-pianist George Yuzo Gale is staging "Tribute to George" with Mapua Concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra," on Sept. 13 at the Cinema Plaza Grand Ballroom.

Yuzo bridges the gap between classical and pop as he performs R & B, standards and jazz. His special guests include Jed Madela, Rachelle Ann Go, Gian Magdangal, Christopher Lawrence, Jaya, Jessa Zaragoza, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma, Ogie Alcasid, Martin Nievera, Jed Madela, Erik Santos

Old-fashioned charm boosts 'Nancy Drew'

By Nestor Torre

SMARTER THAN MOST TEENS raised at movies, "Nancy Drew" is a nice, enjoyable movie that, despite not being particularly brilliant, still stands out from the rest. This is mostly due to the film's titular character's refined iconic girl sleuth, Nancy Drew, refer to an appealing classic and wholesome as she's always been since she somewhat first rose in 1930.

After being subjected to countless movies of teenage girls depicted as vamps in the making, it's refreshing to see a good, old-fashioned kid like Nancy on the big screen, relish her prissy features, knee socks, along with her "please" and "thank yous."

Yet, goody-goody kids can be interesting, but Nancy—as played by young, up-and-comer Emma Roberts—manages to stay charming. Roberts, niece of Julia and daughter of Eric, proves that she's inherited her fair share of the family's talent for acting, as well as a dose of their father's good vibes.

Endearing

Her performance as the spunky, smart and also capable heroine is endearing and although the onscreen script sometimes falters, she still delivers.

Directed by Andrew Fleming from a script he co-wrote with Tiffany Paulsen, the film is a reasonably authentic adaptation of the character from the long-running and beloved young-adult series of books. Not all fans will be pleased with the details, perhaps—sidekicks, Bess and George, for example, only make a token appearance in the beginning—but Nancy herself remains the same.

It's the direct and the setting that have undergone more than a few changes to her in the process. The movie shows us the most famous girl detective in history—fictional and otherwise—trying to fit into Hollywood High School in the mid-'50s (Los Angeles).

Nancy leaves the picturesque town of River Heights—after nabbing two bargains—to go with her widow (Tate Donovan) in LA, where he hopes to get higher face as a lawyer. She has promised him that she will stop her dangerous crimefighting but, of course, the house they've just rented has a positively delicious mystery—that she just can't help but solve!

Movie star Delilia Draycott (Lucy Liu) and her husband (Rhett Butler) have been found dead in his swimming pool not more than 20 years before, and nobody has ever been able to say whodunit. There's a creepy caretaker in the estate, a lot of creaking boards, Chinese boxes with hints between, a missing will, and a sufficiently glamour secret passage—all of which are details you'll find in the Nancy Drew books.

What you won't find there are the illegals, iPods and underaged Valley Girls who play "Mean Girls" kinds of tricks on too-good-to-be-true Martha Stewart-ish newcomers.

Mystery

The mystery itself is predictable, and this is perhaps the movie's biggest flaw. Not that the books themselves would win any Edgars, but they were well plotted enough to keep their readers glued to their pages. Your interest is only mildly engaged by the movie version's mystery, and even the typical 12-year-old reader will find Nancy to be unamused.

The movie's short length—99 minutes—works in its favor. If it were even five minutes longer, you would have started to feel cheated. As it is, "Nancy Drew" is reasonably entertaining and will no doubt appeal to those who, like Nancy, "just like old things."

ADORETTE. Maybe Anne Jolie's good vibes

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Fish out of water

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Banzuela

WE'RE LIKE THAT out of water—gasping for breath when we find ourselves on land instead of the deep ocean. We feel weird and scared because this world doesn't really our longing for security.

Struggle

Like fish struggling to survive on land, we find the struggle for existence burdensome and difficult. We're unhappy because we're not home. We're mental beings trying to fit into a temporary dimension.

Yet, when we're called back to the cool confines of our real home, we object, question, argue and rebel. We rationalize "I'm happy despite the wait, confusion, sting addiction, discontent and broken relationships! Why go into the ocean?"

Simple poem

Great sages teach us: "You can swim home (your) in a fish. It's natural for you to be in the ocean. Don't worry. Your real home—the spiritual world, not the ocean of scales—will bring you comfort!" Their message is found in this simple poem:

We're spirit souls, like fish out of water
We think our bodies are made of matter

We believe this world is our home
Yet, we feel alone and out of place

If we seek our natural condition
We'll find peace and satisfaction

Swim out there, dive into the ocean of love
There, we'll find shelter in God's embrace

Dear fish, stop struggling on land
Place your heart and mind in God's hand!

Shia LaBeouf . . .

Your thanks had to deal with a similar problem early in his own career. He played it out-of-sorts appealing and funny from movie to movie, until he also ended up co-starring himself.

So, he "dated" to do "Philadelphia" and other challenging films, and his thespic reputation got a big boost—that has kept him at the top of Hollywood's endless heap to this day.

Let's hope that this LaBeouf's career will routinely flourish—real and/or.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/CINEMA SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 THE LAST LEGION • TKE	6 SKIN WALKERS
2 DISTURBIA	7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 Indefinite TRIBU	8 A LOVE STORY
4 DAYMATCH	9 THE INVASION
5 NANCY DREW	10 1408

ERMITA

1 DISTURBIA	
2 THE LAST LEGION	5 A LOVE STORY
3 1408	6 DAY MATCH
4 NANCY DREW	7 SKINWALKERS

Faith is only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria AUGUST 29 to September 11

METRO EAST

1 THE LAST LEGION EVAN ALMIGHTY	5 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY	6 THE INVASION
3 SKINWALKERS	7 DISTURBIA
4 1408	8 NANCY DREW

NOVALICHES

1 DISTURBIA	3 NANCY DREW
2 A LOVE STORY	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

PIONEER

1 NANCY DREW	3 SKINWALKERS
2 DISTURBIA	4 DAY MATCH

STA. ROSA

1 1408	4 THE INVASION
2 CASA	
3 THREE	

LIPA

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	4 RISE
2 A LOVE STORY	
3 RUSH HOUR 3	

DASMARINAS

1 SINKING of JAPAN	4 1408
2 THE INVASION	
3 THREE	

IMUS

1 1408	4 A LOVE STORY
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING	
3 THREE	

ANGELES

1 SINKING of JAPAN	4 THREE
2 RISE	
3 CASA	

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 LICENSED to WED	
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY	

STARMILLS

1 1408	4 RISE
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING	5 SINKING of JAPAN
3 A LOVE STORY	6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

1 BLIND DATING	5 CASA
2 DON'T LOOK BACK	6 THREE
3 BORDERTOWN	
4 A LOVE STORY	

ILOILO

1 THE INVASION	5 HAIRSPRAY
2 A LOVE STORY	6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 CASA	7 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 HAIRSPRAY	

SKYCABLE

PREMIERES ALL-NEW CHANNEL LINE-UP

SkyCable continues to bring quality innovations to cable TV as it proudly introduces six new channels carrying some of the world's award-winning and highly-anticipated programs. Beginning January 1, 2008, loyal SkyCable subscribers will get the ultimate viewing pleasure with the entry of all-new quality shows that cater to viewers of all ages and their varied interests. Produced by well-established international cable brands as well as locally syndicated ones, the new channels are set to bring Philippine cable TV to a higher plane with new programs designed to entertain, inform, and educate.

ENTERTAINMENT BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

AXN BEYOND

SkyCable is proud to be one of the first cable providers in the world to carry **AXN Beyond**, the new channel dedicated to uncovering the unconventional, the extraordinary and the unbelievable. A spin-off of the highly popular action-adventure channel **AXN Beyond** is home to thrilling sci-fi and fantasy, horror and paranormal TV series such as *The Dresden Files*, a mystery/fantasy series based on the books by Jim Butcher with Nicolas Cage as one of the Executive Producers. The lead character, Harry Dresden, is a professional wizard and reluctant hero who often helps the police with cases involving "unusual" circumstances. Also available first on **AXN Beyond** is a sci-fi series called *Painkiller Jane* which is based on the cult comic book series of the same name. You can also look out for all-time favorites such as *Supernatural*, *Ripley's Believe it or Not!* and *Hex*.

New kid channels on the block

New kid channels on the block. Making its Philippine premiere is **KidsCo**, the new children's channel that caters to kids of all ages. Pre-schoolers will like Rolie Polie Olie, Madeline, Little Bear, Clifford and Magic School Bus while young school children will enjoy watching *It Teens, Jane and the Dragon, Archie's Weird Mysteries* and *Famous Art Jackson*. Classic movies are also in the offing such as *Bambi*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. KidsCo will be available to SkyCable Gold subscribers.

And as a response to the overwhelming request from SkyCable Silver subscribers, they will now have access to the popular **Disney Channel** also by January 2008. Kids will be delighted to see their favorite Disney characters in shows such as *High School Musical*, *Little Mermaid*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Good Morning Mickey*, *Kim Possible*, *Strawberry Shortcake*, *Mr. Bean*, *Martin Mysteries* and *Totally Spies*. Educational programs like *Art Attack* and *Kratts's Creatures* such as *Even Stevens*, *That's So Raven*, and *Lizzie McGuire* are but some of the kid-friendly fare. Silver subscribers can expect to see

Crimes of passionate TV viewing

FOXCRIME

Avid followers of mystery and suspense series will have more than one reason to stay glued in front of their TV sets as SkyCable welcomes **Fox Crime**, the most popular factual and fictional entertainment television channel. Featuring shows on crime and investigation, **Fox Crime** has been dominating the airwaves in the US and is expected to be one of the top rating new channels on SkyCable with the Asian premiere of two much talked about shows – *Brotherhood*, a Showtime original series about the lives of two brothers in Providence, Rhode Island; and *Dexter*-starring Michael C. Hall who plays a forensics pathologist expert with a dark, eerie side. Also in the pipeline are *Nuvo 2.W.A.T.*, *Trace Evidence: The Case Files of Dr. Henry Lee*, *CSI: CSI: Miami*, *Law and Order*, and *Masterminds*.

BOUNCE WITH EXCITEMENT

Sports buffs will find a new TV companion in **Balls**. The new sports channel brings exclusive and extensive coverage of popular tournaments such as the hardcourt tennis action of the US Open 2007 tastined live from Flushing Meadows in New York, USA. Also included in its line-up are the coverage of the US NCAA football and basketball games, South America's Copa Libertadores, international boxing matches, select PGA, LPGA, ATP and WTP tournaments, surfing, Thai kickboxing, darts, and bowling. Apart from getting live scores and statistics of these events, **Balls** will also feature magazine and news format shows such as *Transworld Sports*, *Rally Mikkoli*, and *Road to Beijing*.

MAXXXimum viewing pleasure

Catch a preview of more newest, up-to-the-minute channels and programs on SkyCable

Channel 33 starting October 1, 2007

It's all about **MAXXX**-tra, heart-pounding action and how a man thinks in **Maxxx**, the new channel suited for today's mature men. Packed with testosterone-fueled programs ranging from martial arts, online games, poker, to auto shows, **Maxxx** will be a must-watch station for the male audience. Some of the programs included in the line up are *Bullrun*, a series that puts people behind the favorite wheels in an all-out rally across the US; *Unique Whips*, which showcases how celebrity luxury cars are transformed to one-of-a-kind works of art; and *Xplay* featuring witty and downright hilarious commentaries on the latest video games.

Velvety smooth programming

VELVET

Energetic, forward-thinking, tasteful, strong, yet still a woman – that's **Velvet**, the new definitive channel for chic women. Rich in laughter with award-winning comedy series, be touched by heartwarming and edgy romantic dramas, catch the latest Hollywood gossip, or be inspired by controversial talk shows – these are the kinds of programs to look forward to on **Velvet**. Among these programs are *The View*, the extremely popular and often controversial talk show produced and hosted by television icon Barbara Walters; and the US classic and daily TV staple *Good Morning America* hosted by well respected broadcast journalist Diane Sawyer. Other exciting shows include the new crime and drama series *Crossing Jordan*, *E! News Weekend*, the primary entertainment news source from Hollywood, *Soup* and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

This new channel line-up was developed as a result of consumer feedback, ratings and commercial consideration, and designed to ultimately benefit SkyCable subscribers. With the entry of these new channels in January 2008, SkyCable will no longer carry the following channels: Basketball TV, Solar Sports, Jack TV, ETC, 3rd Avenue, and Crime/Suspense.

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL THE SKYCABLE CUSTOMER HOTLINE AT 637-8888 OR LOG ON TO www.skycable.com.